



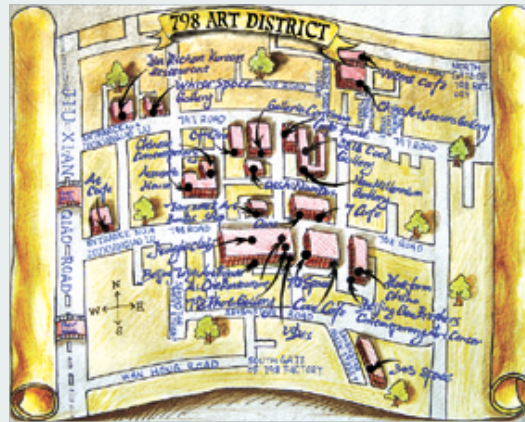
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好运北京

Pre-Games sports special

The 'Good Luck Beijing' series

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Hockey prelim ends in tie

Australia and Pakistan tied 2-2 at the preliminary match for the 2007 International Hockey Invitational Tournament yesterday.

Xinhua Photo

'Good' American is suspected INTERPOL target

By He Jianwei

An American who spends his days collecting garbage and promoting environmental protection in China came under criminal suspicion after a Chinese netizen's post on the China Central Television (CCTV) website, *Nanfang City News* reported yesterday.

After CCTV ran a report in "Shehui Jilu" about this man, many viewers were moved – but not so for netizens, who quickly suspected him of being wanted by INTERPOL.

Kenneth Lee Rothery arrived in Huangshi, Hubei Province, and married Meng Shunbo, a calligrapher, in February 2004. He settled in the country and has remained here ever since, the *Hubei Daily* reported.

When Rothery finds Chinese people throwing garbage everywhere, he always picks it up. "I don't talk to people, I just pick up the garbage and throw it away where it should have gone," he said in the CCTV report.

After its broadcast, an anonymous poster on CCTV's website wrote that he suspects Rothery of being one of INTERPOL's most wanted. According to the organization's website, Kenneth Lee Rothery was born on August 1, 1939, in Utah, US. He faces five charges, including counterfeiting and forgery, money laundering, organized crime and transnational crime, people smuggling, trafficking and illegal immigration.

In the *Nanfang City News*'s interview, Rothery said he had never been charged with any of these crimes.

Beijing Today contacted INTERPOL last night. Because of the organization's protocol, it was denied an interview and directed to fill out an interview request and wait for answers. As of press time, INTERPOL has issued no response.

Chilean gold, copper to be used in Olympics medals

By Jiang Xubo

Mining giant BHP Billiton, medal sponsor for the Beijing Olympic Games, announced Wednesday that its Australian and Chilean operations would provide raw materials for the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games medals.

BHP's Cannington mine in northwestern Queensland will supply the silver used in both the

gold and silver medals.

Its Escondida and Spence mines in Chile will supply the copper concentrate and cathode used in the gold and bronze medals.

The raw materials will arrive at the China Banknote Printing and Minting in Shanghai, where the medals will be manufactured.

The Cannington mine, the world's largest silver producer with

the lowest cost, has a history of providing silver for sporting medals, including the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

The Escondida and Spence mines in Chile are some of the world's largest copper producers with the lowest costs.

The Beijing Olympic Games organizer appointed BHP as the diversified minerals and medals

sponsor for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games at the end of 2005.

Games organizers unveiled the medals this March for the 500-day countdown to the opening ceremony. The medals were made of metal and jade. The jade will be acquired domestically, a spokesman for the organizing committee said, though he failed to specify a mining site.

Special lanes mapped for Games

By Han Manman

Beijing will map out a special lane for the 2008 Olympics and possibly an odd and even plate number alternation scheme to determine who can be on the road each day during the Olympics, an official with the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) said.

The special lane, which includes some truck lanes, totals 200 kilometers in length and follows parts of the second, fourth and fifth ring roads, Yu Chunquan, director of the BOCOG transportation department, said in a website interview Monday.

Yu said the Olympic lanes are similar to the existing bus lanes, and will be at the inner section of the roads. Additional traffic restrictions might apply in and around the sports venues, he said.

He said the special lane and traffic restriction plan will affect traffic during the Olympics, but measures will be taken to alleviate inconveniences caused by the access-restricted routes. During the Games, there will be more public transportation options, including adding buses and subways.

Yu said the details of how the restrictions will be applied have yet to be decided, but may involve selecting vehicles by their plate numbers or restricting parking.

"It is international practice to impose traffic restrictions during the Games, and both options are being considered," he said, adding that use of public transport should ease the burden for Beijing residents.

Yu said after the Olympic Games, transportation in Beijing will see major improvements in at least three areas, especially rapid development in the transportation base as well as improved transportation service levels and management skills.

Celebrate the countdown in prisons



The capital's prison system held a ceremony Wednesday to mark the one-year countdown for the opening of the Beijing Olympic Games.

CFP Photo

New trees introduced to beautify Olympics

By Zhao Hongyi

To beautify the stadiums, fields and competition venues for the 2008 Olympic Games, Beijing is introducing dozens of trees and flowers from the US, Japan and Europe.

"We have to plant all the trees and flowers within this year. Otherwise, they won't be up for next year's Games," Dong Ruilong, director of the Municipal Bureau

of Landscape and Forestry, said. He is referring to planting seasons, because most of the venues will be finished by the end of this year, though native trees and flowers won't come up if planted in autumn or winter.

The trees imported include poplars, locusts, fragrant pagodas and willows, Dong said. These trees have already been planted outside Beijing in Shandong,

Shanxi and Hebei provinces.

The city has built as many as 30 incubation bases for larch trees, white-barked pines, China-berry trees and China Tuliptrees.

Thus far, Beijing has introduced hundreds of trees and flowers, both from the other provinces and abroad, planted 200,000 trees and flowers and harvested as many as 3,000 kilograms of seeds.

China Open climbs in world tennis ranks

By Jiang Xubo

The China Open, which will be held early next month for the fourth year, is quickly ascending the ranks to be one of the world's top tennis events, a SE WTA official said this week.

"I've seen very few tournaments operated so professionally in such a short period as three years," David Shoemaker, chief operating officer of SE WTA, said Monday. "That's why we awarded one of the mandatory tournaments to the event, which means every top ranked-woman tennis player is required to play in the China Open. And that

is the key ingredient to move the China Open to the highest level of tennis worldwide."

Yet, this was just part of the ingredients for a successful tournament. The Olympic Tennis Center, which will be used for the China Open event after the Games, the passion of Chinese tennis fans, and the China Open's strong commitment to gender equality, which means equal prize money for women and men, all combined to make the event successful, the WTA official said.

In fact, the event won't only one of WTA's four "Crown

Jewels" for 2009 at the end of this March, but also sponsorship from more top brands, both domestic and overseas. The China CITIC Bank just signed its sponsorship agreement with the event this week, pushing the total number of event sponsors to ten, which also included KAPPA, Canon and Panasonic.

"It is a fabulous result to reach ten sponsors. They are not just ten sponsors, but ten gold-standard type sponsors," Shoemaker said. "But there is always room to improve. We are going to push to see more and more development."

New text aims to stamp out corruption

By Han Manman

Beijing students will receive compulsory anti-corruption lessons starting this autumn, including case studies on executed officials, in hopes of stamping out corruption before it can begin.

The anti-corruption textbook series titled "Honesty Education" has different levels. Tang Yiqin, secretary of the discipline committee of Beijing Academy of Educational Sciences (BAEC), said the four editions include the preliminary edition, middle school edition, high school edition and a teacher's guide. Tang said the editions have already been examined and approved, and will be published late this month.

"Honesty education is not a special lesson, but an assistant book to be combined with relevant knowledge," Tang said, noting that it may be used in political and history courses. Tang said although it is only an assistant book, the teacher must use the book when teaching a relevant issue.

According to BAEC, primary and junior high school editions will concentrate on the positive, talking about traditional values and standards.

The senior high and teachers' editions will include negative examples, such as the 2005 mass-cheating case in Xi'an and the Cheng Kejie case, the former vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) who was executed for accepting bribes.

Tang said teachers would get students to discuss corruption that exists in every day life, such as treating people to dinner or other luxuries when trying to garner votes for student council. Teachers will also organize to discuss "corruption cases" among students like the student canvass to win the monitor election.

"All the negative case studies in the book have been adapted from real life events," Tang said. "We take typical cases and use them to tell students that honesty is not only part of being an adult, but that they should form good habits and avoid being greedy or taking advantage of others," Tang said.

The step comes as China's disciplinary watchdogs required further anti-corruption education and a more effective prevention system in the wake of Cheng's bitter case.

Teenager's summer job earns death instead of money

By Jiang Xubo

Sixteen-year-old Liang Xiaowen, a recent middle school graduate, aimed to earn badly-needed high school tuition fees on her summer job. She never expected her work in a Guangdong plastic factory would instead earn her fatal cases of encephalitis and pneumonia.

After completing their high school entrance exams, Liang and as many as 300 classmates in Maoming City took summer jobs this June in nearby Dongguan and Shenzhen factories in late June, thanks to the regular seasonal employment program of Huanan Electrical Engineering School (HEES), a local

vocational school.

"They promised that we could earn more than 900 yuan every month," Chen Haiyin, Liang's friend, said. "Xiaowen registered for the job immediately. She just wanted to earn her tuition fees."

It turned out to be a nightmare for Liang.

Within only one month, the girl fell ill with a severe cold and fever. On July 8, she collapsed on the production line. Her family sent her to the hospital two days later, but could only afford the most basic treatment. She died two weeks later.

Liang was not alone in her ailments.

"We worked without any training course and without protection. Many students caught colds and felt chest discomfort," Liang Chunmei, another girl who survived the long hours and extra shifts, said.

"One of my longest extra shifts hit six hours," Chunmei said. "We were forbidden to take weekend breaks."

Some students were found to be under age 16 - a fact the school vehemently denied.

"I am not yet 16, but they told me a couple days doesn't matter," Chen Haiyin, one of the students said. She said many students made fake ID cards and got the job. There

was never any check done on the origins of their cards.

"The school never applied for our approval to enroll students in summer jobs. It is against regulations," Su Shixin, vice chief of Maonan District's Labor Bureau, said.

It is also forbidden for people between ages 16 and 18 to work night shifts, and it is illegal to require them to work more than eight hours per day. It is also a violation of Chinese labor law to hire minors under age 16.

HEES is one of as many as 100 vocational schools in the city, most of whom connect students with seasonal job in factories outside the city.

Marriage hunting aids search for true love

By Li Yidan

Singles, desperate for true love, can now turn to professional marriage hunters for help, thanks to Marriage Hunting, a service now available in the capital.

The service offers another solution for people who find it difficult to seek a spouse due to narrow circles of friends and limited free time.

Marriage hunting is a trade of "hunting" love. The "hunters" launch worldwide searches for candidates who meet clients' requirements, instead of searching within the dating pool of their registered clients. Even if a client falls in love with a single man at first sight on TV, the "hunters" may be able to contact him.

"I successfully hunted a candidate for my client when I was taking a taxi," Zhou Xiaopeng, one of the "hunters" from Beijing-based Baihe, a marriage hunting service, said. One of the taxi driver's regular customers happened to meet the demands of her client. With the driver's help, she contacted the man and arranged a date between him and her client, the *Morning Post* reported.

Hunting usually works in teams, which include a professional psychological consultant, a love-marriage specialist and a counselor. When clients don't know what they want in a spouse, the team can try to hammer out a guideline through communication and psychological tests. In order to avoid dissension, counselors-at-law offer advice to protect clients' privacy and safety.

However, hunting isn't cheap.

Beijing-based Ouimeet Marriage Introduction Company (OMIC), marriage hunting service provider, which targets people with successful careers and high income, charges some 50,000 yuan (US\$6,250) annually for membership.

Chinese donate stem cells to Korean

By Jackie Zhang

Two Chinese men donated their hematopoietic stem cells, those which form blood, to save two South Koreans from deadly blood diseases yesterday.

The South Korean Marrow Donor Program started seeking hematopoietic stem cell donors in China for the two patients several months ago after efforts to find a match within their borders failed. In June, the program found two Chinese men: Yang Tao from Hunan Province and Geng Zhiming from Hebei Province.

"Body examination confirmed these two men were proper donors," Song Ye, a staff member from the China Marrow Donor Program (CMDP), said.

Last weekend, Yang and Geng arrived in Beijing and started preparation for the donation at Beijing Daopei Hospital. On Wednesday and Thursday, the hospital collected their hematopoietic stem cells twice. Yesterday at noon, the countries' marrow donor programs held a simple donation ceremony. The Koreans flew the cells back at 3pm, yesterday.

The two South Korean patients were expected to accept examination yesterday afternoon and receive the transfusion this morning, Song said.

"The cells can be kept for, at most, 72 hours. However, they should be put into the patients' bodies as soon as possible," Song said.

The two countries' marrow donor programs signed an agreement on sharing cell sources earlier this year.

"Since we are all Asian people, genes in our bodies are quite similar. It will be easier for us to find proper stem cells than in western countries," Song said.

A policeman from Henan Province was the first Chinese man who has donated hematopoietic stem cells to a S.Korean patient in June since China Red Cross set up the CMDP in 1992.



Xi'an burns thousands of illegal guns

The police in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, burned over 2,300 illegal guns and some 5,000 dangerous knives yesterday, which had been confiscated during the last several years.

CFP Photo

Crematory work for college student

By Han Manman

Garbage man, waiter, security guard, show polisher and crematory operator are careers that rarely intersect in the course of any life, but a group of young people in Chongqing Province experienced them all in a "transposition" activity held last weekend.

"I'm scared. I quit," Guo Liangna said at the entrance of a funeral home on Saturday. She and her friend Zeng Lian were there to experience life working in a crematorium.

The two girls, both students from Southwest University, Chongqing, were members of the "Chongqing Danke Club" (Individuals Club), a group which organizes events aimed to make dull campus life more interesting. Group events sometimes include experiencing other peoples' jobs.

The members drew lots to decide which job they would experience. It turned out to be crema-

torium worker for the two girls, a special job.

Guo Liangna quit the game, so Zeng Lian had to face the challenge on her own. Twenty minutes later, she gathered up her courage and prepared to take the plunge. Her task was a basic funeral parlor one: to carry the newly received corpse to the morgue.

Led in by a real crematorium worker, the trembling girl pushed the trolley, with a corpse on top of it, into the quiet room.

"I felt a chill up my spine. I knew my feet were shaking," Zeng said, when recalling the day's experience. The first thing she did after finishing her work was to take a deep breath. She told Guo, "I thought teachers and police officers were grand, but I guess crematorium workers are, too."

Wang Zhi, a worker in the funeral home, said carrying bodies, disinfecting the oven and

tidying up the crematorium were the most common jobs for the workers. "This is the first time we've had someone here to experience our work," Wang said.

"When we tell people that we want to experience their daily job, they are all very friendly and supportive," Mou Fangming, one of the club's organizers, said. Other members drew lots to sell newspaper, polish shoes and sweep with street cleaners.

The club, launched two months ago, also organizes activities like carrying umbrellas for strangers when it rains, taking photos of rude behavior online and to help the newspaper reporters do interviews.

The club members call themselves "Danke," which means an individual, regardless of age or marital status. To join the club, a member must agree to "Cast off the identity of the self and be truly equal."

Brief news

Work accidents end lives of 49

To date, this year's 40 cases of construction site accidents in the capital have left 49 workers dead. The number marks a nine percent drop in construction deaths based on last year's figures, a spokesman with the Beijing Municipal Construction Committee said this week.

Flowers industry continues boom

City residents spent as many as five billion yuan (US\$660 million) on flowers, up 36 percent from scent spending in 2004. The Chinese rose, lily, carnation and tulip ranked as the top four favorites, according to a survey on the city's flower consumption.

Millions more foreigners

Over 12 million foreign travelers visited the Chinese mainland during the first half of this year, up as much as 18 percent on the same period of last year, according to statistics from the National Tourism Administration. (By Jiang Xubo)

Catapulting canine population causes capital problem

Beijing (Reuters) – Rising numbers of pet dogs in Beijing are causing problems – from overcrowding to rabies – Xinhua reported Tuesday.

More than 100,000 dogs have been newly registered this year, bringing the Chinese capital's dog population to over 703,000 and prompting a "string of social problems," Xinhua reported.

Complaints about barking and

dogs fouling up public spaces are on the rise, while numbers of strays abandoned by their masters are growing, the agency reported.

Most seriously, attacks on people have risen 34 percent from the same period last year, with about 83,000 people being treated for bites and other canine-inflicted wounds, it said. The blame is being placed on owners who allow their pets to

wander without leashes.

Two people have died of rabies, both on the city's outskirts, where roaming dogs are most common, the report said.

Despite rising popularity of dogs as pets, the government continues to enforce harsh restrictions such as expensive licensing fees and a limit of one dog per family in Beijing.

Many local governments have

ordered cullings of dogs to control the spread of rabies. Last year, the disease killed more than 3,000 people in China.

However, the Chinese capital's growing middle class has become increasingly vocal in protecting their canine companions. A recent campaign to enforce restrictions attracted extraordinary public protest by dog owners.

Expert comment

Firstly, we have registered over 703,000 dogs in the city. This is an increase of 17 percent over last year's 600,000.

Secondly, we'll enforce the monitoring of walking dogs as many owners do not care about

others, taking their dogs into elevators, restaurants, schools and communities.

Thirdly, and most importantly, we'll create a system to collect dogs and cats abandoned by their owners. The Ministry of Agricul-

ture will join with the police, street maintaining force and the public health departments to establish dog and cat collecting centers.

These centers will also help feed the dogs and cats when their owners are unable to do this, for

instance being away from home or any other acceptable reasons.

— **He Xiong,**
deputy director,
Center for Diseases
Control and Prevention
(By Zhao Hongyi)

Thorpedo brings tools for Beijing



Ian Thorpe (left), the former Australian freestyle swimmer, attended the Omega's celebration for the one-year countdown to the 2008 Olympics this week.

"Omega will provide 400 tons of timing equipment for next year's Olympics," Omega President Stephen Urquhart (second from left) said.

Omega was designated as the timing system sponsor in the 1932 Olympic Games.

Wang Wei (right), deputy executive president of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Organizing Committee, attended the ceremony.

Photo provided by Omega China

White dolphin again called 'extinct'

Beijing (AFP) – China's rapid industrialization has likely made extinct a species of fresh water dolphin that has been on Earth for over 20 million years, Chinese and British biologists said in a report published in London.

Scientists from China, Japan, Britain and the US failed to find the white dolphin, known as the baiji, during a six-week search of its natural habitat in the Yangtze River last year.

"This result means the baiji is likely extinct," Wang Ding, co-author of the survey and one of the world's leading experts on the species, told AFP.

The dolphin was a victim of devastating pollution, illegal fishing and heavy cargo traffic on the Yangtze, Wang said.

The findings mean the baiji is likely the first mammal to become extinct in more than 50 years. It is the cousin of the bottlenose dolphin, which is also on the critically endangered list.

Wang, from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, lamented that further searches this year had failed to find the dolphin.

Wang said that a letter written by the survey team had been published in the latest issue of the Royal Society Biology Letters journal in Britain to confirm the dolphin was believed to be extinct.

The baiji, identifiable by its long, teeth-filled snout and low dorsal fin, was last officially sighted more than two years ago.

The last confirmed count by a research team was conducted in 1997 and just 13 were recorded.

Up to 5,000 baiji were believed to have lived in the Yangtze less than a century ago, according to the baiji.org website.

"The decline in the baiji population has been caused by extreme human pressure on its freshwater habitat," the website said, blaming illegal fishing and massive discharges of industrial and agricultural waste into the river.

Expert comment

It's not accurate to say that the white dolphin has become extinct. More scientifically, we should say they have become "functionally" extinct, which means they are on the edge of extinction.

More specifically, functional extinction means the species are so few that they cannot maintain regeneration by themselves.

According to the definition by the International Union for Conservation of Nature Resources (IUCN or World Conservation Union), a species can be declared extinct only when a single one cannot be found in nature for a consecutive fifty years.

The last sighting of a white dolphin was in 1997. We found 13 white dolphins in the Yangtze River. That is only nine years, not fifty. Therefore, we cannot declare that it is "extinct" yet.

In the early 1980s, we found



The white dolphin has been regarded as a lucky symbol by residents along the Yangtze River.

Photo provided by ihb.org

over 400 white dolphins in the middle and down stream of the river, mainly in the lakes of Dongting, Buyang and Honshu. The number decreased to 200 in the early 1990s, and 100 in the middle of 1990s.

— **Wang Ding, deputy director, Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Science**
(By Zhao Hongyi)

GPS used for Olympic food safety

Beijing (AP) – China said it will use global positioning satellites to ensure food safety at the Beijing Olympics as it steps up efforts to blacklist manufacturers who violate safety regulations.

Wang Wei, the executive vice president of the Beijing Olympic Committee, said the high-tech system will monitor food production, processing factories and food hygiene during the games to make sure healthy food is delivered to the 10,500 athletes residing in the Olympic Village.

Food products will be affixed with an "Olympic food safety logistics code" and transportation vehicles will be tracked using global positioning satellites, Wang said. He did not provide further details of either plan.

"The whole process will be monitored from the start of production through transportation to the end users," Wang said. "We are very confident about ensuring food safety in Beijing."

Wang said extra measures would also be taken to ensure food safety for the general public.

Fake 'Tiffany' jewels headed for US siezed

Beijing (Reuters) – Chinese customs officials have seized more than 6,000 pieces of counterfeit "Tiffany" jewelry headed for the US, state media reported on Tuesday, as Beijing battles accusations it is soft on pirates.

Three shipments of the fake jewelry, inscribed with the upmarket brand of Tiffany and Co, were intercepted in east China's Zhejiang province, the Xinhua reported.

The items included necklaces, earrings and bracelets. The report did not describe their quality.

Beijing has been fending off complaints from the US and EU that it has not done enough to stamp out counterfeiters who copy films, music, software and luxury brands.

Washington and Brussels also say that many of the counterfeits reach overseas markets.

No food stalls at toilets

Beijing (AAP) – Food stalls attached to Beijing's public toilets will be removed in time for next year's Olympics, state media reports.

Complaints over toilets with poor sanitation and toilet operators turning them into commercial operations led to the ban, which comes into force in October.

"It is not proper to sell soft drinks or snacks right at the toilets," the Beijing News said, citing sources within the Beijing Municipal Administration Commission.

"The city authorities also plan to publish a toilet guide, provide toilet information over the telephone and the internet and erect more road signs to help toilet users."

Billboards near toilets will also be banned, Xinhua reported.

Soccer fan detained for cursing



As the Olympic Games approach, Chinese sports fans are catching on to the importance of civilized behavior.

CFP Photo

By Jiang Xubo

A Beijing soccer fan was detained in late July for organizing an online campaign to humiliate local Guo'an team's rivals, both online and at stadiums.

The 20-year-old man, surnamed Hao, was banned from viewing live matches at the team's home court, Beijing Fengtai Stadium, for 12 months, Li Zhongyi, an official from Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau, said.

Hao allegedly ran an online forum at Baidu.com, one of the country's largest portal websites,

since March, voicing support for Guo'an and insulting rival teams and referees in Beijing dialect.

His style of insults were common in the notoriously rude *jingma*, or Beijing obscenities. For example, his posts regularly contained the abbreviation "SB," short for the phrase "sha b—," which is roughly translated as "dumb c—t."

"I've been using *jingma* since I was a little boy. Beijingers enjoy insulting rival players while watching games," Hao said. "For our team, it really

raised their spirits."

Hao's online forum drew in dozens of netizens, all native Beijing people, and quickly spawned several hundred insulting posts. Forum members teamed up at major events, holding a two-by-one-meter wide banner with the phrase "Jingma League" and insulting rival referees and players. They also held a same-sized banner saying "Victory for Guo'an," local police reported.

"*Jingma* is an ongoing embarrassment for me," Liu Jingming, executive vice president of the

Beijing Olympic Games organizing committee and the capital's vice mayor, said earlier this year.

Lüsekuangbiao (Green Tornado) and Yulinjun (Royal Army), the capital's two major soccer fan clubs for Guo'an, prohibit members from insulting rival teams.

Beijing residents have been repeatedly urged to behave themselves in front of the estimated 550,000 spectators from around the world and 22,000 journalists who are expected to come to the city for next year's Olympic Games.

Comments

Nothing to be ashamed of

Jingma is a beautiful part of Beijing life. Beijingers cannot live without jingma, and jingma cannot survive without Beijingers to speak it. Is insulting other people such a problem? Is it really barbarous? There are things much worse than this.

— proudbeijingfan

Far from hooligans

These people are not soccer hooligans yet. Hooligans provoke and vandalize. These people just insult rival teams for excitement and fun. Yet what they did still flies in the face of current efforts to create a civilized atmosphere at sporting events.

— Xu Dongfeng, vice chief of Lüsekuangbiao

Think of the children

The guy should be banned from soccer fields for his life. He could ruin the capital's image! Fewer people will go to stadiums for the Chinese Super League games if clubs like this exist.

— Xiaorenxiang

Blame Chinese soccer culture

Is the impulse to insult opponents really that big an issue? The league is kind of funny, but it still makes sense to punish them. Still, the whole culture of the Chinese soccer universe is where the blame should lie.

— superball

I'd do it, too

I really yearn for something as exciting as insulting other soccer players. I am always insulting the players when I watch matches on TV at home.

— anonymous

(Sources: the Beijing Times and sina.com.cn)

Are these 'volunteers' legal or illegal

By Jackie Zhang

Feng Guan (pseudonym) was caught last year on charges of bludgeoning a thief to death. Earlier this month, he finally posted bail and his case has been transferred to local Wuhan, Hubei Province, prosecutors. Because of the case, the Wuhan Volunteer League, which Feng was a member of, stopped catching thieves. The debate over vigilante justice has been heated since Feng's case broke.

Last September, Feng participated in an activity organized by the Wuhan Volunteer League. A thief he caught, Yang Man (pseudonym), died 28 days later. Feng is suspected of having injured the thief's head when he was caught in December.

Since then, the Volunteer League has not organized any campaigns to crack down on thievery, but has shifted its focus to public works like blood drives.

Shoushuda (web name), the initiator and organizer of the Wuhan Volunteer League, denied that the league is a civilian organization, but just a group acting for the common will. "We just want to do something to give people hope. Aside from catching thieves, we



Thieves in many cities are commonly visible, so many citizens are catching them whenever and wherever they find them.

CFP Photo

also provide community services. Unfortunately, since Feng's case, we have stopped catching thieves."

The volunteer league was organized online in July last year. The group held regular activities every week. Once they captured a thief, they called 110.

Shoushuda said they repeatedly asked the local authorities for legal information, training and support, but were eventually forced to abandon that plan.

"The public security depart-

ment wanted us to participate in their work, but we couldn't. We have our own jobs and can't work as a professional police aid."

The volunteer league in Wuhan is not the only crime fighting force facing difficulties. One of the biggest online anti-thief organizations in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, will be dissolved soon. The league organizer, Changmingdeng (pseudonym) explained that it was because of financial burdens and personal danger.

Comments

Worthy of praise

Members of civilian crime fighting organization have comparatively high moral standards and a sense of purpose.

They should be praised because their deeds protect others and enforce morality

However, they are not judicial bodies. They should be careful not to do anything that crosses the legal line, otherwise they'll be in trouble.

— Wang Wanxiang, lawyer

Groups should exist

The members have no duty or obligation to help capture thieves. It is not a legal organization, but a group of people.

The government encourages individuals to catch thieves and help others.

Several people working together for that purpose is no different. We cannot claim they are illegal.

— Zhou Ze, lawyer

It's a job for the police

Catching thieves is the job and duty of the police. It is

improper for citizens to form a group to catch thieves because they have no rights to do it.

They also lack professional training necessary to do the job.

— Wenqc, netizen

Gap in the law

Everyone has the right and responsibility to catch a thief when he or she finds them. We should accept these anti-thief leagues.

There are no specific regulations in the law to forbid these organizations, so there is no excuse to label them as "illegal."

— Vicky Wu,

foreign company staff

Need guidance and help

Some groups are dissolved for a variety of reasons, but it has little impact for us.

We participate in these activities by our own volition. We hope that one day there will be no more thieves in our society...

We need something in writing that protects the existence of our groups.

— rabbit, a member of an online anti-thief league

Sounds of nature echo in Beijing auditorium

By He Jianwei

The experts from Radio Expeditions, a collaboration between National Public Radio (NPR) and National Geographic Society, have brought fascinating natural sounds out of the jungle and into the auditorium in stereo surround sound.

Since last Sunday, visitors have been able to dive with humpback whales, spend a night with elephants in a forest clearing in Africa, survive an attack by thousands of killer bees, trek to a remote Himalayan monastery and journey deep into the rain forests to listen to buzzing insects – all from their seats in the Forbidden City Concert Hall.

Carolyn Jensen, executive producer of NPR, and Bill McQuay, sound engineer of the Radio Expedition, shared their recording experiences during the trip.

Jensen loved reading *National Geographic* since she was a little girl. Those fond memories inspired her to start the Radio Expeditions project 15 years ago. Jensen believes collecting wildlife audio is more risky than collecting wildlife photos.

One time, she took a trip to Malaysia to do a story on the country's honey hunters. Hunters have to climb a hundred and twenty feet up a very high tree to collect honey from thousands of bees.



Bill McQuay, sound engineer is sharing his recording experiences with audience.

Photo by Lv Jiazuo

"For honey hunters to get the honey from the honey comb, they have to go out on a moonless night. They light a torch and climb the tree, and then they throw the torch to the ground. All the bees follow the light as the torch falls, and the hunters can collect the honey," Jensen said.

"When I was in the field, I was always sweaty, dirty and filthy – that's what I love. I grew up on

a farm riding horses and feeding the chickens. Things are dirty," she said.

Bill McQuay collected sounds of elephants in central Africa, which were used as whale noises in *Finding Nemo*. He collected the sounds on a moonless night as the elephants gathered. "I couldn't see what happened, so I just listened. I was surprised by the sounds the elephants made,"

he said.

McQuay took two trips in Yunnan Province in 2001 and 2004. "It's marvelous that I could go to the nature conservatories trying to preserve the natural environment," he said.

Radio Expeditions has captured these sounds in stereo surround sound for 15 years and turned them into an aurally-rich experience.

Restaurants rock out to the good word

By Gan Tian

Micki Murphy, a German performing artist, with her band of four men named "Us," settled into CJW Restaurant in The Place for her performance. The group gives gospel music performances regularly, and has attracted many Chinese fans.

Us has already performed throughout their hometown in Las Vegas, and they arrived in Beijing only a week ago. Al Clark, drummer and musical director of Us, mentioned he has already been part of many projects including musical director for the Las Vegas Black Music Awards. "I am so glad that Micki brought us all here and gave us a splendid chance to see Beijing and China," he said.

Nairobi Sailcat plays guitar, and his friend James Wyatt is the bassist. Karl Cousin, lead vocalist and keyboard player, said.

Murphy, now something of the band's manager, said Beijing was a great and inspiring place where arts and culture melt together.

Changbai Mountain bike race recruits

By Jackie Zhang

The VatternRundan Changbai Mountain Road Race will take place on August 24 and 25. It originates from the Swedish VatternRundan, which is one of the largest participatory cycling events in the world.

The race is now open to the public for registration. Changbai Mountain is a famous range off the North Korean border in Jilin Province. It is a big nature reserve, but remains mostly undiscovered by foreigners.

The race covers 65 kilometers in total, and participants will climb from 600 to 1,700 meters before reaching the finish line at the waterfall. Race registration costs 200 yuan, and includes numbers and race insurance.

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Big names arrive for the Beijing Pop Festival

By He Jianwei

The Beijing Pop Festival (BPF) 2007, one of the biggest outdoor music festivals in Asia, will light up the stages at Chaoyang Park next month with a series of international and domestic headline bands.

Public Enemy (PE), one of hip hop's greatest groups that is now celebrating its 20th anniversary, will close Saturday night with a career spanning set. PE transcends the confines of rap and pop, remaining one of the African-American community's most influential messengers and digital music's greatest champions.

Nine Inch Nails (NIN), one of the most influential industrial rock groups, will close out the festival on Sunday night. NIN's founder and visionary Trent Reznor writes, plays and produces all of the group's material, and was named one of the 25 most influential Americans by *Time Magazine* in 1995.

One of punk music's most iconic artists, Marky Ramone, the most visible surviving member of The Ramones and their longest serving drummer, will play The Ramones greatest hits.

The only non-US international



Young people love Pop music festival at Chaoyang Park.

CFP Photo

headliner coming this year will be Brett Anderson, the founder and voice of Suede, a Britpop legend. He will play a mix of solo works and Suede material.

Also in the line-up were rock bands the New York Dolls, Rize from Japan and Mumiy Troll from Russia, Jason Magnus, one of the organizers of the festival, said.

Joining international headlin-

ers is China's godfather of rock n' roll Cui Jian, who will perform Sunday. "It's a great opportunity for international music circles to get acquainted with Chinese rock," Cui said.

This year, the BPF received as many as 120 band requests for the Rock for China main stage alone. A variety of top local artists like Xie Tianxiao, Brain Failure, Thin

Man, Muma and others will play.

Launched two years ago, the annual festival has become a big music event in China with increasing international participation.

Cost: 200 yuan per day, 380 yuan for two days (advance purchase); 250 yuan per day (at the gate)

Tickets: 400-818 3333 or piaowutong.com

Speeding up the Beijing-Shanghai route

By Annie Wei

More and more people find air travel a pain thanks to long airport waits for short flights, where boarding time can quickly add up to exceed actual air time.

Aiming to improve service for air passengers, the General Administration of Civil Aviation (GACA) said an express route between Beijing airport and Shanghai Hongqiao airport will be in use starting this week. There is a special channel for this route's passengers and simplified procedures.

The flight route between Beijing and Shanghai is the busiest in China, and constitutes three percent of all air passengers in China. Almost every half hour, a flight takes off on this route.

This express route is run in cooperation by five national airlines: Air China, China East Air,

Shanghai Air, China South Air and Hainan Air. Passengers who buy tickets from one of these five airlines can switch flights easily for this route. This means, you buy a flight ticket for Air China from Beijing to Shanghai, but if you arrive early, you can fly a route run by Shanghai Air.

A GACA spokesman said the express route will shorten flight times between Beijing and Shanghai to only three hours, including check-in, boarding, arrival and exit.

How to use the express route

• Q1 to Q8 of terminal two are special counters for the express route. There are also four self-service boarding machines to speed up check in and seat selection. All procedures need to be complete 20 minutes before take-off.



The Beijing-Shanghai express route launched this week.

Photo by Lou Qiyong

• The easy switch plan for flights between five air planes only applies to full-price air tick-

ets. Discount, group or prize tickets from a special deal cannot switch flights.

Famous Chinese brands need translation

By Zhao Hongyi

Quanjud, Donglaishun, Tongrentang, Ruifuxiang and Rongbaozhai are Chinese words you won't find in any textbook or dictionary.

They are famous Chinese brand names for various consumer goods, but they are having a tough time making any headway in the global market. Foreigners can rarely understand what the brand names mean, or what their products actually are.

The Beijing Traditional Brands Association (sttacas.org) and The Science & Technology Translations Association are working together to generate translations of Chinese brands starting on August 6.

"To have a perfect translation of these brands, one must first have a clear picture of what these companies do or what their products are," Jiang Junxian, chairman of the traditional brands association and the chairman of

Quanjud Group, said.

Quanjud is a famous Beijing roast duck brand; Donglaishun is the top chain of lamp hot pot restaurants; Tongrentang is the most famous Chinese medicine producer since Qing Dynasty; Ruifuxiang produces the highest quality silks and cotton cloth; Rongbaozhai has a huge collection of antique Chinese books, calligraphy and paintings.

"The translations should cover

both pronunciation and meanings," Jiang said.

The competition is organized by the Transn Information Technology Co Ltd, a Beijing-based translation company. It covers translations in English, French, German, Russian, Italian, Japanese and Korean. Interested individuals can visit the company's website at transn.com, to download the registration form and submit translations.

Submissions will be accepted

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to weiyang@ynet.com

Are there any English resources that list the nutritional value of common dishes in the small, cheap Beijing restaurants?

Unfortunately, there are no English resources with this information since most Chinese people do not calculate their nutritional intakes. Restaurant food is usually much oilier than home-made food. If you enjoy Chinese dishes in low price, a practical option is to hire a cleaning lady to help cook you simple dishes. More and more expats do that. It costs about 1,000 yuan per month to hire an *ayi*, and the food cost for average Chinese cuisine is as few as 400 yuan per month.

What is the best way to find landlords directly instead of going through an agency? Some friends told me to try online, but I got the runaround. How can I find agencies which offer the cheapest fees? My friends told me that theirs only charged half a month's rent while most cost one full month.

Real estate agencies are very active in Beijing, and they have more information than you do. The only option is to ask around - friends or colleagues - or get your request out on your MSN. There are always landlords looking for tenants without agencies.

I am a foreigner and my boss always asks me to work overtime for free. What are the rules about overtime here? I asked my boss about this, and he just skirted the issue and said that Chinese people are always willing to work overtime for free. Is that true?

According to China's labor regulations, the work hours should not exceed eight hours per day and 40 hours per week. China has strict regulations for companies that hire foreign employees. You may want to consult the exit and entry bureau for details. Also, Chinese people are not always willing to work overtime for free - it is just understood that with China's population, you are always replaceable, and survival comes before anything else.

(By Wei Ying)

World juniors unveil Good Luck Beijing series event

By Huang Daohen

The one-year count-down for the Beijing 2008 Olympics began yesterday, along with the start of the 2007 FISA (International Federation of Rowing Association) World Rowing Junior Championships in the Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park.

The 4-day Championships mark this year's very first "Good Luck Beijing" sports event in Beijing. The series is seen as a rehearsal for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

A grand opening ceremony was held for the tournament on Tuesday afternoon in the Shunyi Olympic Park. More than 600 rowers from 50 countries and regions participated.

"This is an occasion, not only for the venue to be tested under the pressure of a full-scale international event, but also, and above all, to give young rowers the memorable opportunity to take part in the event on the brand-new, state-of-the-art rowing course," FISA's President Denis Oswald said at the opening ceremony.

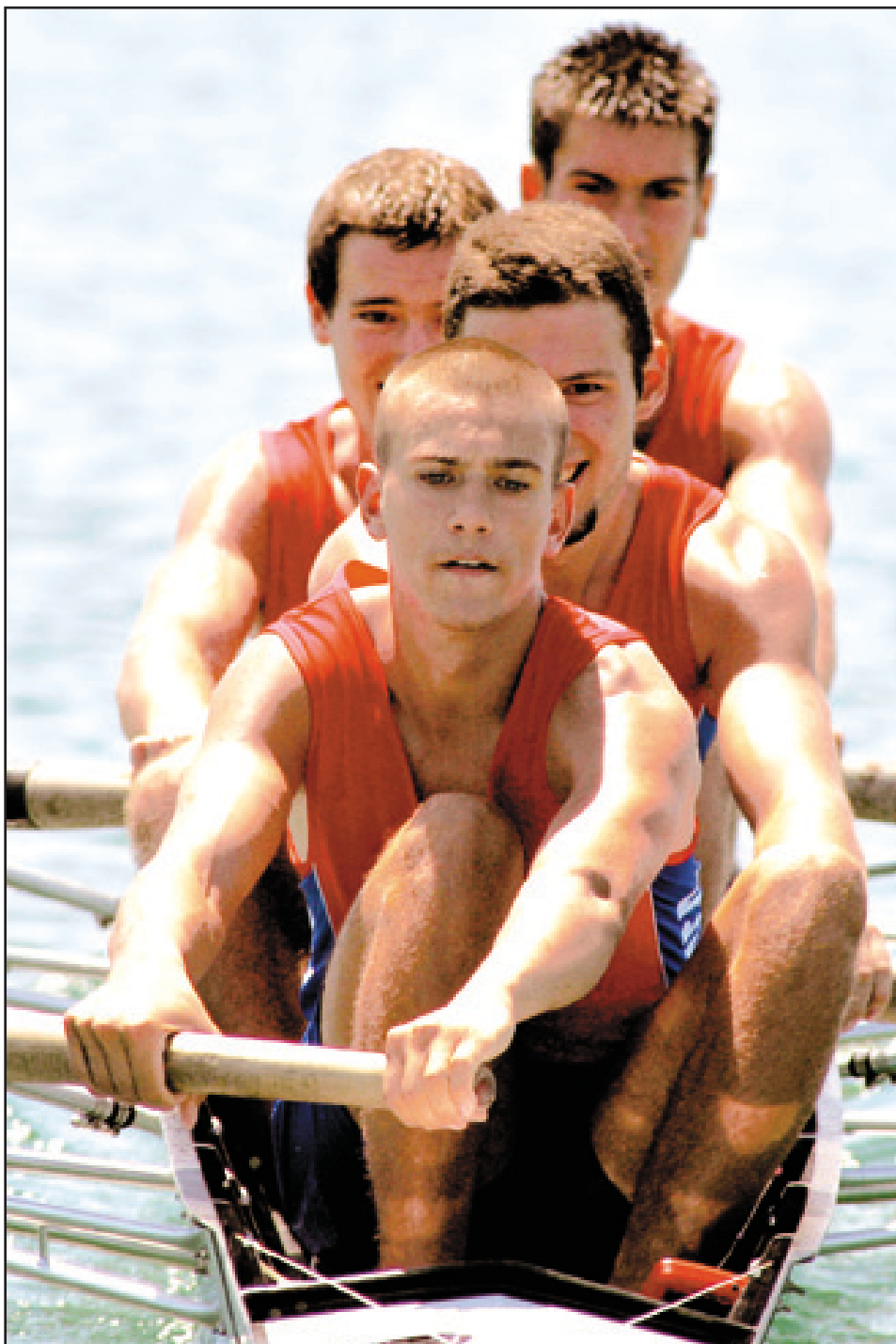
Thirteen gold medals will be awarded to the winners of the finals tomorrow. Germany, the traditional favorite of the event, carries the highest expectation of winning the gold.

Not surprisingly, China appears in force on their home ground. With 44 athletes representing China in 12 events, the team aims to show off their new rowing blood to the world. Gao Jingping, chief coach of the Chinese rowing team, expressed his satisfaction with the performance of the team in the first two days of the heat at a news release.

Gao explained that the Chinese team only formed on July 30. Despite the short period of time for concentrated training, these young rowers have been doing well. However, the young athletes still have long way to go for the Games next year.

China is now second to Germany with the five fastest qualifying times in the heat.

Coined "Good Luck Beijing," the critical testing phase - which is scheduled to end in June 2008 - consists of 42 sporting competitions, including 14 top-level international events.



Senegalese rowers make their last push to cross the finish line in men's single sculls yesterday. Xinhua Photos

Germany targets high expectations

By Huang Daohen

Germany, with 55 athletes and 30 officials participating, brought the largest contingent to the event and are aiming to dominate the world rowing junior championships.

As a traditional domain in the Junior Championships, the German rowing team is represented in all 13 events. The team last year took 11 medals at the World Rowing Junior Championships in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Steffen Becker, coach of the men's quadruple sculls from Germany, said Wednesday, that he had the confidence the team would win nearly half of the 13 gold medals at the tournament.

"We are one of the strongest teams and I estimate we can win

five to six gold medals this time," Becker said.

In the first two days of the competition, Germany proved to be the world's strongest junior rowing team as it finished first in six of the 13 competition disciplines in the heats.

Manker Tina, last year's world junior champion from Germany, finished first with a time of 8:00:55 in the women's single sculls, Wednesday, to advance to the finals to be held tomorrow.

"I wish I could have won the title, but today's competition was rather tough due to the warm weather and high humidity. I could hardly breathe," Tina said after the race.

"I was the winner in this event last year," she added, "but this time the weather is really quite

different. I have been here in China for weeks in order to get used to the weather and I will try my best to achieve good results in the finals."

Speaking of her fellow opponents, the Chinese team, Tina said she was greatly impressed by the Chinese rowers. "I never thought the young Chinese rowers would be that tall and have such good technique," said the German athlete.

The German rowers, who came to China for the first time, also offered their impressions on China. "We have been to the Great Wall and the Forbidden City. These historical sites left deep impressions," they said, "China is a country that brings people pleasant surprises. Many things here are different from those in Germany."



Jacques Rogge kicks off the hockey tournament.

China beats Argentina in the first round of hockey tournament

By Annie Wei

The "Zhongguodui, jia you; zhongguodui, jia you," spectators burst into applause at the Olympic Green Hockey Field on Wednesday when the Chinese women's hockey team scored again.

It was the first day of the Good Luck Beijing 2007 International Hockey Tournament, one of the important events of Good Luck Beijing 2007 on from August 8 to 13.

The tournament invited leading hockey teams from Australia, South Africa, Argentina, Pakistan and Malaysia. Four men's teams, including Australia, Pakistan, Malaysia and China, and four women's teams from Argentina, Australia, China and South Africa will compete for the trophy.

Although it is a six-day competition, the tournament will take Friday and Sunday off. The women's competition starts at 8:30am and finishes at noon, while the men's competition starts at 6 or 6:30pm and finishes at around 9:30pm.

An important function of the tournament is to test the newly-built hockey stadium. So far, all the athletes, team coaches and officials have expressed their excitement over performing in this new stadium.

Special bus route for spectators to watch the hockey tournament

By Chen Fei/ Annie Wei

Although the majority of the public knows that most of the sports venues are close to the bird's nest, the National Stadium, it's hard for an average visitor to figure out the exact location of each stadium.

One of the "Good Luck Beijing" sports events, the International Hockey Tournament, is being held at the Olympic Green Hockey Field of Beijing's Olympic Park from August 8 to 13. This venue is situated at the fifth north ring road.

To soothe the trip to the hockey field, Beijing Bus Company has designed a special route from the middle of north third ring road right to the spectator's entrance to the hockey games. The bus is available on August 8, 9, 11 and 13, from half-past five in the morning till eleven at night.

To distinguish itself from other buses, the stop uses a sign in blue, with the "Good Luck Beijing" sign on it. It costs 1 yuan per person and IC cards are only 0.4 yuan for an adult and 0.2 yuan for students. Besides the dedicated public bus route, you can also take Bus 510 with its last stop being the Olympic Park northern venues.

As there is no available parking area currently at the Beijing Olympic Green Hockey Field, public transportation is a better choice.

Some still complain that two bus routes are far from being enough for spectators. The Beijing Olympic Committee has promised to increase the bus routes to ten for the Olympic Games in 2008.

New park previews Olympics



The Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park was officially delivered in late July.

Xinhua Photo

By Huang Daohen

The new Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park, built for the Games of the 29th Olympiad, was officially opened late July. With its staging of the first official test event, in the form of the 2007 World Rowing Junior Championships, the park came under the international spotlight and posed the question, is Beijing qualified to host a world mega event such as the Olympic Games next year.

Bearing this questions in mind, *Beijing Today* sent a coverage team to the venue and unveiled the mysterious structure for the first time.

Venue construction

"That's really great!" Everyone was stunned by the vast venue in front, stretching 3,000 meters from north to south, and 900 meters at its widest point, east to west.

Covering an area of more than 31,000 square meters, it is the largest Beijing Olympic Games venue in terms of surface area. It will host rowing, canoeing, kayaking and marathon swimming events during the Games.

Construction of the venue began during the first half of 2005. The park has a seating capacity of 3,700, with 1,200 permanent seats and 2,500 temporary seats including a standing-room-only area for 1,000 people.

It is the world's only first-class rowing-canoeing venue that contains both a flat-water and slalom course. "The wind speed is perfect here and the water is very clean and flat," said Nash Caroline, a member of the US rowing team. According to the organizer, the water will be recycled once every 35 to 40 days.

Greening becomes a priority during the construction. The green surface area occupies around 6 million square meters with green coverage of over 82 percent. Along with the yet-to-be-built Forest Park of Chaobai River, which will surround the park, the venue will create a natural oxygen bar.

After the Olympic Games, organizers said the venue will be converted into an attractive resort for swimming and recreation, which



Concession stands, offering snacks and drinks, are available in main spots.

Photo by Wan Jia



The organizers provide free bicycles for the athletes inside the venue.

Photo by Wan Jia

will make it the largest of its kind in the northeastern part of Beijing.

Traffic

Local government gave the surrounding area of the venue a fresh look by upgrading the roads.

The 20 kilometer Baima Road, linking the downtown area and Shunyi Olympic Park, opened to traffic on June 30. It takes 30 minutes to drive from the Olympic village to the park.

In addition, the right and left bank feeder roads of Binhe road have been renovated and expanded. The same renovations are underway on the bank roads along Chaobai River, Xinfan road and Shunan road and will be completed before the Games.

For the convenience of visitors, an Olympic special bus line was launched on August 1, starting from downtown to the venues. The bus runs every twenty minutes from 5:40am to 10pm during the tournaments.

Nevertheless, there is still room

for the government to improve. A rowing enthusiast, surnamed Hou, suggested that there should be more road signs along the way from Beijing to Shunyi district. "We were a bit confused when we came to crossroads on the expressway since there was no obvious road sign," Hou said, "a sign would have saved us much trouble."

Security

Security and anti-riot measures are always a crucial part of preparatory work for the Olympic Games.

At each entrance, anti-riot measures of Olympic standard have been adopted. Both spectators and their belongings have to pass a strict check when they enter the park. Vehicles entering the venue are also under inspection.

Food and drinks are not allowed. As a test, one of my colleagues tried to bring in a bottle of purified water hidden in his bag but the bottle did not pass through the security machine.

For the sake of underwater security, an expert diving unit from the nation's navy force has joined the security staff.

The "frogman" unit, composed of more than 30 divers from the People's Liberation Army navy, is responsible for the safety of the underwater area totaling 610,000 square meters.

According to Zhang Yang, leader of the unit and acting on orders from the general headquarters of the PLA and the Navy, they came to Beijing to cooperate with the local public security staff during its initial rehearsal.

Service

Finally, we arrive at service, the core part for the test event.

Foreign media claims that venue constructions won't cause much trouble for China due to the country's economic boom in the past decades. However, the first rehearsal said it all.

The volunteers for the event are selected from Games-time volunteer applicants and college students from the nation's top ten universities, according to Chen Yue, an officer in charge of the volunteer unit.

The applicants are chosen under strict selection guidelines and those who pass the test receive general and professional training accordingly. Only those who have passed the exams and received the training certificates can be assigned to their posts.

"Through the 'Good Luck Beijing' events, the preparations for the coming Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will be tested and the working schemes of the volunteer program will be fully assessed," Chen said.

Interpretation of news releases is always a part ignored during international tournaments held in China. Nevertheless, Yang Fei, interpreting the first news release held on Wednesday, surprised all at the scene and drew high praise from the media by her accurate interpretation and pure accent.

This time, the committee has cooperated with a professional company in the field of interpre-

tation. Yang is one member of the professional interpreter unit responsible for all news releases.

Since no food and drinks are allowed in, selling stands are set up to meet the need inside the venue. Athletes and spectators can get snacks, soft drinks and Chinese food at a relatively low price at these stands located in several main spots.

The organizers also provide a "bicycle-renting" service for athletes inside the vast venue. Though licensed as a renting service, the bicycles are for free. With a deposit of 400 yuan, the athlete may acquire a bike and the deposit will be refunded after the return of the bicycle.

Weather conditions are also taken into account. The city's hot and humid weather causes much trouble for western athletes who are used to the milder temperatures.

In the women's single sculls Group C held on the first day, Yurina of Russia, successfully entered the semifinals, but the result was not so pleasing to her. "Everything here goes well except for the hot and humid weather, which makes it difficult for me to breathe," Yurina said.

The organizer has since offered daily weather predictions, including the temperature, humidity and how the weather affects the body. In addition, there is sufficient purified water supplied for the athletes.

"I have never experienced a better service," David Tanner, team leader of the Great Britain, said.



Electronic clearers are ready for the tournament.

Photo by Wan Jia

Worldwide suggestions help Beijing countdown to Olympics



More effort should be made to improve environment

The organizing committee has done splendid preparatory work. This is a perfect start to the one-year countdown to the Olympic Games. Still, I believe that more effort should be made to improve environmental conditions. I've noticed that some rivers here are dirty and the air quality is not as good as European cities. Also, in certain areas, there are large amounts of rubbish on the street. Bettering the environment needs continuous work even after the Olympics.

— **Benoit Buno**,
tourist, France

Media center is hot



I just arrived at Beijing Capital Airport yesterday. My colleagues and I received a warm welcome. Generally speaking, everything has gone well, so far. But, to be frank, it's a little hot in the media center. I think we need a cooler environment to do our coverage and send it across the world.

— **Brett Johnson**,
journalist, United States of America

Traffic jams still an issue



The new structures of the rowing-canoeing venue, without a doubt, are highly praised and affirmed worldwide. Nevertheless, during a two-day survey, through the eyes of foreigners, we found that there is still room for improvements.



Spectators from overseas enjoyed the rowing race on the bleachers.

Xinhua Photo

This is my first time here. I have seen the great achievements Beijing has accomplished for the Olympics. I have been to downtown Beijing. Lots of people have commented on the heavy traffic. I think traffic jams are a common problem all over the world nowadays. I know the municipal government has made every effort to ease the traffic pressure. I believe Beijing will handle these problems well.

— **Ijsbrand Haagsma**,
Official of FISA, Holland

A screen needed to view the race



I have seen a lot of volunteers here. Their hearty smiles impressed me the most. Chinese people are definitely kind-hearted and they have indeed helped us a lot. Still, one thing the organizers should pay more attention to is that we, as spectators, need screens to see the results and forecasts of these competitions. If not, we

are always confused and have no idea what is going on.

— **Robyn Orsoun**,
Mother of an athlete, New Zealand

Drivers need improvement



This game is crucial to my son because he may have a chance to participate in the 2008 Olympics if he does well here. Thanks to the organizing committee for providing such good service ensuring my son and other athletes will do their best. All of my family members love this city and its culture.

I'd like to talk about taxis. Firstly, I suggest the government strengthen their supervision on taxis. It costs us 500 yuan to travel from the airport to a downtown hotel. It is said the normal cost should be about 100 yuan. Secondly, a friend told me that it is difficult to communicate with some taxi drivers. I hope the government can help these drivers improve their language skills and encourage them to learn basic English.

— **Jan Fich**, a player's father, Denmark

Western food needed at Games

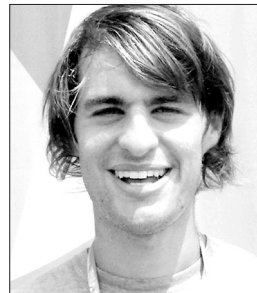


I enjoyed this game. The Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park is fantastic.

But, as for the meal services, I hope we can get more western food both in the rowing park and hotels in case some European families cannot adjust quickly to Chinese food. I have full confidence that Beijing will do better next year.

— **Tonvan Velsen**
and his family, Father of an athlete, England

English newspapers lacking in hotels



I like the place because Beijing is warmer than my city and you can enjoy the sunshine while competing in the regatta venue. But, I failed to find some English newspapers or magazines to read in my hotel and the venue. Organizers should offer a bigger variety of reading material

other than Chinese.

— **Bram Dubois**,
rower, Belgium

Special family stand is great!

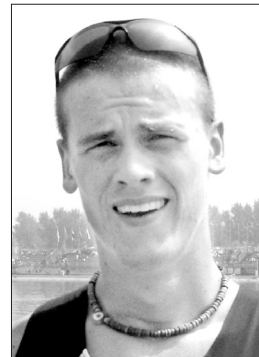


The special family stand provided by the organizers is really a great thing. We can share our tears and laughter with other family members who attend the event.

I'm very excited and I'm also nervous and worried because my son is a rower who just crossed the finish line. This is the first regatta in which he has reached such a high level so we attach great importance to the event and our family has come along to support him.

— **Geri Silveira**, a mother, USA

Well done, Beijing!



I like all of the things in Beijing, including the accommodations, volunteer services and environment. Chinese food is a favorite aspect for me. I enjoy it. Volunteers are always around me and even a flash confusion or worry in my face brings aid from them very quickly. And, also, if rowers fall ill during a regatta venue, they receive medical treatment immediately. This point I really appreciate.

— **James Hills**, athlete, USA

Uncomfortable weather



We are from Guangdong province and glad to come to Beijing for the Championships. This is our first time in Beijing and we feel a little uncomfortable in the humid and hot weather. Hope we could get used to it soon.

— **Zhongxiaotao**
and **Hanwei**, rower, China

Change the race schedule to avoid heat problems



I am here to support my daughter on the Australian team in this race. Veronica suffered from light heatstroke yesterday due to the hot weather. You know, it's winter now in Australia, but here it's summer. Anyway, we sent for a doctor to see her yesterday; it's convenient to get medical information here.

I wonder whether the organizer could re-arrange the race schedule so as to start some events a little earlier, for example, to avoid the heat.

— **Gary Tamsitt**,
father of rower, Australia

(By Bu Kai, Wan Jia and Yao Jia)

International hockey players love the new field

By Annie Wei

The Good Luck Beijing 2007 International Hockey Tournament will be held at the Olympic Green Hockey field. The Olympic Green, which is located in a Northern suburb of Beijing, is a specially-built venue for the 2008 Olympic Games.

The Olympic Green Hockey Field is one kilometer from the Olympic Village. It has two competition pitches which are used for warm-up purposes. Pitch One has a total capacity of approximately 12,000 seats and Pitch Two has 5,000 seats.

All teams and technical officials can walk to the field through designated walkways providing secured access. Also, there are eight change rooms for the competing teams. All are fully-furnished with showers, toilets, changing areas and even massage tables.

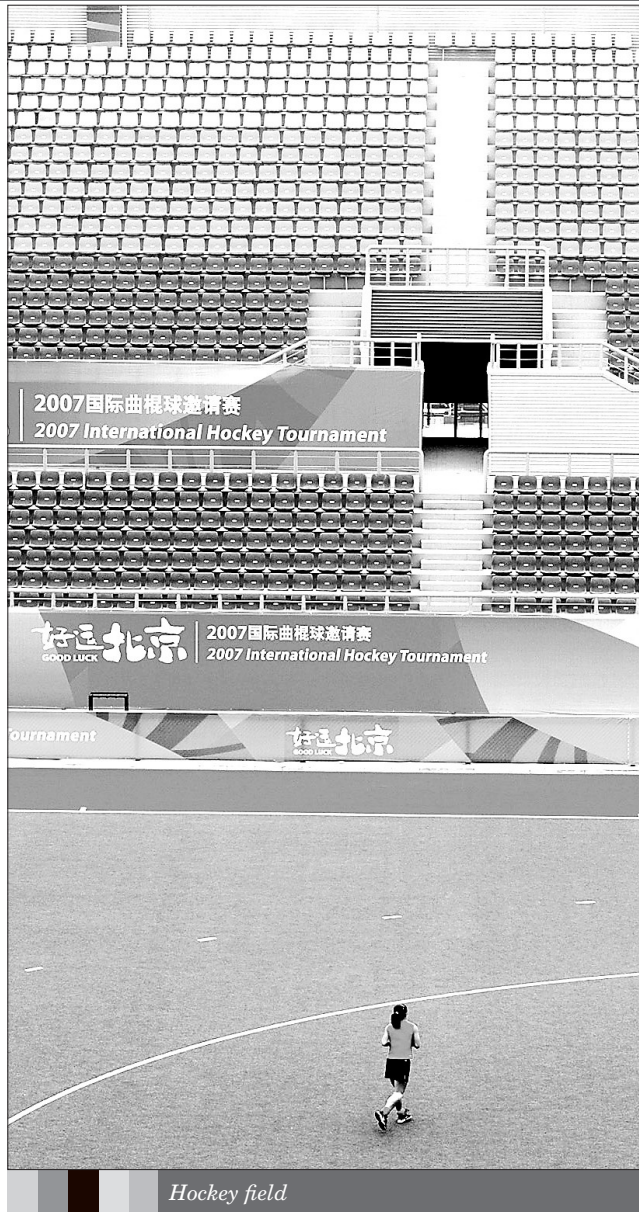
There is a nice lounge avail-

able for the athletes and Team Officials at the Olympic Green Hockey Field. It is open during all training and competition sessions. And working staff at the stadium will provide plenty of refreshments, including bottled water.

Hockey players and coaches are very happy about their new hockey field.

Magdalena Aicega, captain of the Argentina women's team, said the stadium was very pretty and impressive and they hoped to enjoy excellent performances at the Olympic Green Hockey field in the future. Also, accommodations, such as hotels and traffic, were all very good.

"Only one thing," Gaberiel Minadeo, the coach of the team said, "it's a pity I did not find roasted meat in the food. You know how Argentina people love their barbecues."



Hockey field



The venue has paid attention in such a small matter as stroller storage. CFP Photos

Miss Know-All, the sweet volunteers

By Chen Qin/ Annie Wei

During your trip from downtown Beijing to the hockey game venue, you might complain about the bad traffic, but the politeness and smiles of the volunteers at the scene will quickly dispel that.

All the volunteers wear colorful orange T-shirts, with "Ask me" printed on the back and a warm and inviting smile on the front.

At the spectators' entrance, there are four pretty girls from Beijing Union University working as volunteers for the "Good Luck Beijing" 2007 International Hockey Tournament. They are the little "Miss Know-Alls."

"If you have any questions about the travel route, the admission notice, the times of the games, or related English translations, I'll try my best to give you an satisfactory answer," Yao Yuanju, one of the four girls, said with confidence.

Being a volunteer is not an easy job. "I got up at six this morning to get to the venue on time," Wang Yu, a girl living quite far from the Olympic Green, said. The four-girl group works from eight to twelve in the morning,

and their colleagues, also from Beijing Union University, are on duty from five to nine in the afternoon because all the hockey games are scheduled only in the morning from 8:30 am to noon and 6:30 to 9:30 pm.

"See this Information Desk? We girls built it!" Wang Yue said. The main part of the "desk" is a two-meter high umbrella with springs attached to a metal frame. "It's heavy! But we learned the assembly method in a training session just before the tournament kicked off," Wang Yue said, with a laugh.

During the training, the volunteers also gained knowledge of the different manners of various cultures, how to assist the Olympic Family, basic emergency medical treatment, organizational management and work schedules.

"Volunteering gives us a chance to share skills and talents with others, as well as an opportunity to develop new skills. It brings friends together and enables you to make more friends. It is very rewarding, and I hope it will be even better in the 2008 Olympic Games," Wang Erxu, one of the four, said.

Hockey teams affected by late-summer heat

By Annie Wei

After two days of rainy weather, the Good Luck Beijing 2007 International Hockey Tournament was greeted by one of the hottest days in Beijing on Wednesday.

In the morning women's session, China defeated Argentina 3-0 and Australia beat South Africa with a score of 4-0.

Gabriel Minadeo, coach of the Argentina women's team said, after the first game, the weather was the biggest reason for his team's per-

formance.

The heat put his team at a disadvantage, Minadeo said, and the Chinese women's team took advantage of that making it a good experience for the Argentina team.

Minadeo's team captain, Magdalena Aicega, agreed with her coach. "I was not happy with the outcome today, but it was part of our learning experience."

Other teams complained that Beijing was too hot and humid

for them after being in the city for just a short time. Jenny Kings, coach for the South Africa women's team and Australian Frank Murray, both said that the heat was a challenge for them. And they would love to get more practice under such weather conditions for the tournament, as well as the important preparation for the Games next year.

The whole world is concerned about Beijing's polluted air and environment as these conditions

might very well affect the international athletes' performances.

Magdalena Aicega said they were not accustomed to the Beijing weather right after arriving, but they soon got used to it. The heat was the biggest obstacle they had to face.

Frank Murray from Australia said that he did not think polluted air had any impact on his team's performance and the only real issue they had to deal with that first day was the heat.

Comments

We are the first spectators to experience the new hockey field. I think the field is great and well-built. We are all very excited to be here.

— Xie Zhijian, teacher

I am very proud to be one of the spectators. We are not just spectators but also performers. We were organized by our community to practice tai-chi. My family is very supportive of the Olympic venues.

— Zhu Yue'e, retired worker

I am so happy to know something about hockey. By watching the hockey tournament, I became more and more interested in the game. I also learned that teamwork is so important in playing this game.

— Yuan Jun, vice-director of Huixinli Community

It's great to be here and I am looking forward to seeing what Beijing is like next year!

— Li Chuihui, social insurance

We are from Argentina and we also play hockey back home. We are here to watch the Argentina hockey teams. At the beginning, they were really good. I think they got very tired because of the heat. Right now, it's very cold in Argentina.

— Barbara Yamile Rosales and Monica Ojeda

(By Wei Ying)

Olympic venues through the eyes of local residents

By Chen Fei/ Annie Wei

"Thanks to the construction of the venues, our living conditions have improved a lot," said Ma Xianyan, a retired worker and a resident of the nearby community-Aolinchuntian (Olympic Spring).

"For instance, there was no public transit before. So we had to walk a long way to reach our destination. But now, there are two modes of transportation nearby. Street lights have been recently installed. What's more, due to the tree-planting and man-made lake at Olympic park, the condition of the air has improved a lot, as well as the scenery," Ma said.

The construction of the venues also pays close attention to protecting the surrounding environment. "There is not much noise, nor dirt. The construction process causes us little trouble, and we feel rather satisfied about it all," Ma said.

However, there still exists some problems that need further attention. The direction signs are not clear enough and many visitors and taxi drivers spend a lot of time looking for exact addresses. And there are few phone booths and restaurants available along the road.

"There are only one or two cheap restaurants featuring common Chinese dishes inside the community in the south area," Ma said, where he and his neighbors went to eat.

When asked how much they cared about the Games, Ma said: "People here are really keen about the Beijing 2008 Olympics Games. Not only because it is a big event for the whole city, but also because it is quite close to our lives — the venues are just within our sight."

Ma said the residents of his community often listen to the radio or watch TV to catch the latest news of the development of the Olympic Games. It is part of their lives now.



Forever

Luxiao is five years old!

Birthday party

"It's more than a casual gathering; we intended to catch your eye, not only with still works, but with on-site graffiti, as well," curator Li Guiming, an active Luxiao member, said. "We tried to make the show interesting. Still posters are not enough so we left some walls blank for improvisational graffiti," he said.

As expected, white walls were filled with drawings in a few hours making the gallery vivid and alive. Each painting was unique with skillful lines and emotional expression reflecting the new-generation spirit – quirky, daring, rebellious, quiet, yet fiery with a restless heart hidden beneath.

The Bauhaus-style three-story space became crowded as online buddies showed up and made friends in person. Graffiti was the easiest way to communicate for the doodle fanatics. As low beat music played, everyone enjoyed the birthday cake while celebrating. Hundreds of people appeared that day. The exhibition takes on a new look each time you enter the gallery.

By Sab Chen
Luxiao
its fifth
the 798
diverse
member
tion inv

Five years - Spiritual home

Those quiet-looking young artists are not used to being anonymous as they struggle to forge their way in the art world. From students to professional artists, each member has an unusual story to tell. "I haven't changed much from following the same schedule as in school," 24-year-old illustrator Yan Cong said. "We used to be students, but now we have our own careers. My goal is to finish my comic story book," he said.

For those who love drawing and visual arts, creativity is carried forward. The artists sell their work at iMart as well as printing out their own collection of comic books. Some are discovered by well-known galleries and hold shows abroad; some open their own studios. Impossible dreams come true the more they succeed. It's not only a matter of growing up and accomplishing, but also a declaration of a new motto: no restraints, no authority.

"Each member does it his own way. Some quit their jobs to become professional artists and live with art and enjoy themselves all the time," Li Guiming said. "But they all communicate on the same level and are not ruling people out by certain standards. Instead, we invite newcomers and encourage them to be part of their lives." As a result, Luxiao is looked upon as a spiritual home.

"I presented the exhibition out of my feelings for Luxiao. When digital pictures turn out to be paintings, it's very different. Even though the gallery won't pay off, I still find it meaningful since it's for an internet-based group to endure this long," Li said.



Visitors participating in the on-site graffiti at Luxiao's fifth anniversary exhibition last Saturday



Luxiao - Now and then

Luxiao (Green School) was founded by 54boy, Lanlan, Breath and Lu early in August. As a comic show, they decided to try new styles other than Japanese manga. Realizing there were already existing on Graffiti Kingdom (poobbs.com) the partners began to post artwork online. A year later, Luxiao attracted fifty members – now, it has almost a hundred all over the country.

Luxiao's blog (Luxiao.blogbus.com) offers a new platform for members to share and display their talents through computer graphics, animation, painting, photography, sculpture, installation and more. It's easy to join. Whenever you leave a message, post a work or come to a gathering, you are part of it.

Various gatherings, exhibitions and events tie members together. They have taught others how to draw and exhibited their works collectively at the Beijing Art Now Gallery under the name of Continuous media exposure has gained Luxiao a name among many designers. "More and more people are easy if they are not in town, they simply send their posters via the Internet," Li said. Since the atmosphere is so easy and open, you never have to worry about your drawing skills.

Remember, if you can't play an instrument, you probably cannot perform on stage with a band. But you are not an artist, you can still come and have fun creating doodles at the on-site graffiti display during anniversary celebrations. The Potential Gallery has a white wall saved just for you.



Poster for Luxiao's fifth anniversary

5 周年

Young

Young, the most vibrant young art group in Beijing, held its fifth anniversary exhibition at the Potential Gallery in the Art District last Saturday. At the opening party, anniversary posters designed by talented group members were displayed. The innovative graffiti on-site attracted many visitors to participate, share and enjoy.

their own way. I still think it's hard, but now it's easier.

creations on the wall. Known curators and collectors are striving to create a new generation of art.

some just play around at the same level. We want to make art a serious thing.

be framed and displayed. It's not easy to get your work into a gallery.



st of 2002. After witnessing a lot of changes, we were already non-Japanese styles after merging with poobbs.com, we decided to express.

They can showcase their talent and other artistic means. We are in.

abled children at Peizhi School in Beijing. The title, "Luxiao and Friends", and more people are joining us. The web-based art "school" has been established.

an orchestra, but, if you want to play during Luxiao's fifth anniversary, you can.



Poster for Luxiao's fifth anniversary

Photos provided by Li Guiming

A Year Without “Made in China”

One family's true-life adventure in the global economy

By Dianna Bai

Imagine a giddy toddler walking through a toy store with a handful of cash, only to discover he cannot buy a single thing. Such was the frustration Sara Bongiorni's four-year-old son endured as his family tried to go *A Year Without "Made in China"* (Wiley, US\$24.95).

Bongiorni, a seasoned journalist who specializes in international trade and business, decided in 2005 to find out just how much Americans were bound to the global economy. Her decree? To go a year without buying any products marked by the little sticker familiar to all US shoppers: "Made in China."

The experiment resulted in year of humorous shopping ordeals and mini-crises chronicled in Bongiorni's acclaimed book. She reluctantly shelled out a whopping US\$60 for children's shoes from Texas when her daughter outgrew her old ones. Her heartbroken son cried over the purple electric pumpkin he couldn't buy in the toy aisle because it was "Made in China." Instead, he was stuck with Danish Legos.

The family killed four mice with outdated snapping traps because the more humane catch-and-release ones were – you guessed it – "Made in China." And when the family blender sputtered out, they went a long, sweltering summer with-

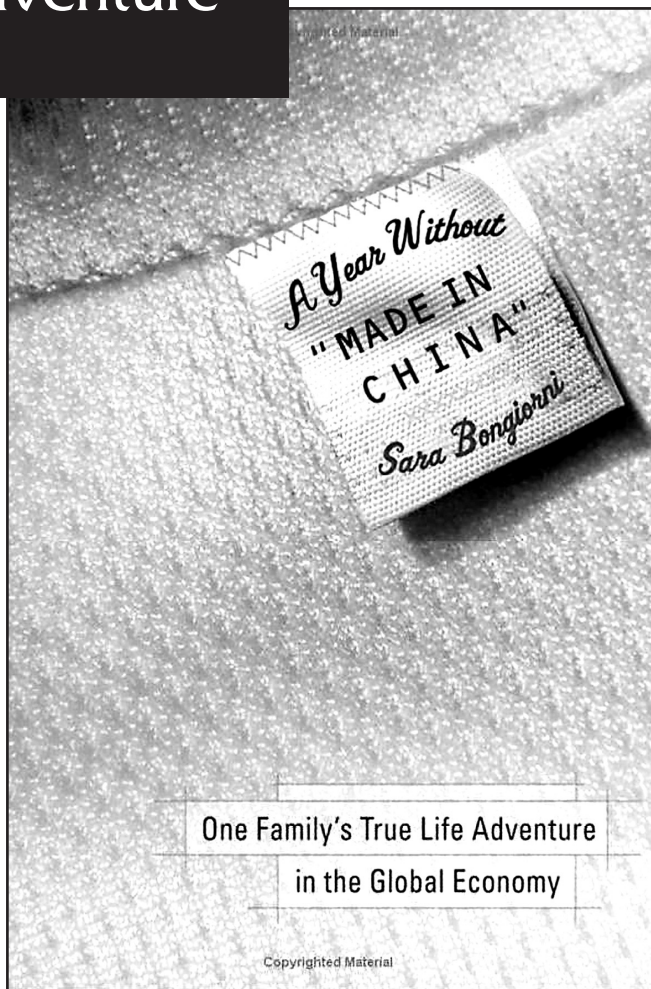
out smoothies because they couldn't find a replacement not "Made in China."

It was a yearlong lesson in globalization: China had become the patron goddess of American consumerism. Because of the huge labor pool and inexpensive production costs in the world's most populous nation, the American commodities industry has found itself largely unable to compete with Chinese factories. A US lamp manufacturer Bongiorni called told her that Chinese lamp makers were "eating the lunch" of American producers.

The fact that 15 percent of the \$1.7 trillion in goods imported to the US comes from here may incite some protectionist sentiments to "buy American." The Bongiorni's experience, however, illustrates just how difficult this task can be in an increasingly interconnected world.

"Americans may be famously patriotic, but look closely and you'll see who makes those flag magnets on their car bumpers," Bongiorni wrote in her newspaper column. "These days China delivers every major holiday, Fourth of July included."

Indeed, when the year without China was over, the author's four-year-old son rejoiced. He said to his mother one day in the bathtub: "When we can buy China things again, let's never stop."



"You will never go shopping the same way again! It's impossible to read Sara Bongiorni's book and not be captivated by the complexity and challenge of her task, and to then try it yourself for a day and fail miserably by lunchtime. This is the rare book that makes you think about how big global issues actually hit home, and it will have you discussing those issues with your friends."

— Chuck Jaffe, Senior Columnist, MarketWatch host, Your Money

All down hill from here?

By Gan Tian

Wu Hongfei, an experienced journalist of *Southern People Weekly*, asks some tough questions about today's world through her interviews with 32 famous figures in fields like literature, publishing, academia and directing.

Her book, *Zhege Shijie Haoxieleme (Is the World Getting Better?)*, Wu Hongfei, Shanghai People's Publishing, 28 yuan), has telling interviews with popular Chinese celebrities: from controversial online figure Furong Jiejie (Lotus Sister) to host Huang Jianxiang, she asks each time whether the world is really getting better.

Wu interviews Dao Lang, an entertainer, crosstalk performer Guo Degang, fairy tale author Zheng Yuanjie, weiqi player Ma Xiaochun, script writer Ning Caishen, real estate king Pan Shiyi, writer Yu Hua and sexologist Li Yinhe.

In every interview, she appears sharp and aggressive, cutting to the

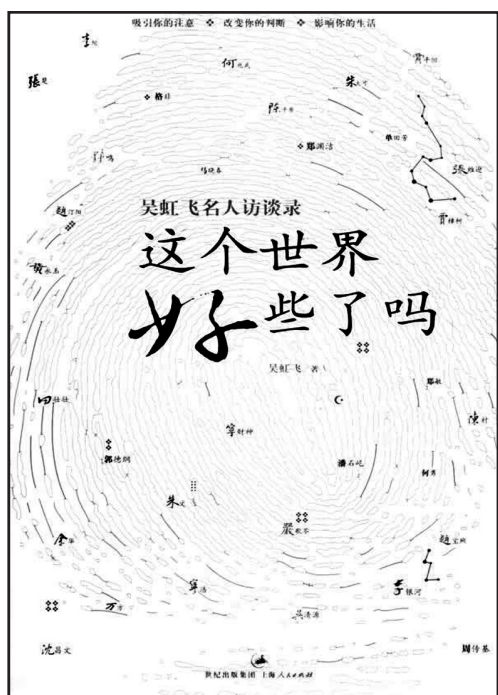
point directly. Though her behavior offends some of the stars, she is still able to dig out their "secrets."

Everyone focuses on Furong Jiejie's funny image in the media. No one cares about her traffic accident and its influence on her. Wu talked about it in her interview, sharing the tough times she went through and her weaknesses. The articles are much more attractive because they expose the weak points of the smiling faces plastered about the country.

But in the end, Wu's collection doesn't answer her initial question. The celebrities she interviews are important, powerful and famous enough. They represent the world. The rule seems to be that, if they live better, then the world must be getting better.

It takes some analysis on the part of the reader to answer the question. Sure, celebrities live better, but is the world improving? Can these people express what others want to express?

Wu's message rings clear in the end: the "elite" are ordinary people, and the world has nowhere to go but up. So the message is, embrace your averageness!

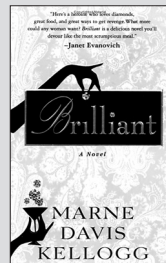


CNPIEC Bookstore's Recommendations

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following US best sellers for Beijing Today readers.

Brilliant

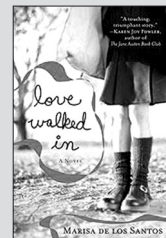
By Marne Davis Kellogg, 352pp, St Martin's Paperbacks, 70 yuan



For the last 30 years, American Kick Keswick has devoted her life to a British institution. Following her boss's death, Kick continued to work and support the boss's son, Sir Benjamin. However, an upcoming merger with American industrialist Owen Brace depresses Sir Benjamin to the point of suicide.

Love Walked In

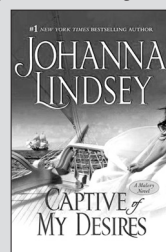
By Marisa de los Santos, 320pp, Plume, 140 yuan



Cornelia is manager of a cafe because she hasn't figured out anything better to do. Her ideal man is Cary Grant, who comes to her in the form of Martin Grace. What she doesn't know is that Grace, with his cool charm and debonair demeanor, has a daughter, Clare. Estranged from his daughter for years, Martin doesn't know what to do with her. It is a sweet story about knowing what you love and why.

Captive of My Desires

By Johanna Lindsey, 464pp, Pocket, 80 yuan



Laural Merlington engages the listener with this captivating story of a nineteenth-century pirate's daughter who falls in love with a sea captain. Gabrielle, daughter of a Caribbean pirate, returns to her native England to search for a husband. While under the protection of the Malory family, she falls in love with American sea captain Drew Anderson.

CNPIEC Bookstore

Where: the second floor of CNPIEC, No 16 Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 8:30am-6:30pm
Tel: 6500 1859, 6592 6871
(By He Jianwei)

The secret of super power

By Gan Tian

NBC drama hit, *Heroes*, follows the stories of modern men and women with super powers who have to hide their abilities while living a normal life. The show has

given rise to an internet community that believes itself to be like the characters in the show. What does it take to become a member? Controlling wind and fire is a good place to start.

Spontaneous combustion

Jeremy Salton, a 24-year-old IT engineer in Seattle, US, drove to work one autumn morning. When he stopped by his local coffee shop, a small fire broke out in the second floor kitchen. Customers fled from the store, but the fire was under control before the firemen ever arrived. The evening news attributed the blaze to a careless cook, but Salton disagrees.

"It was all my fault," he said, riddled with guilt and unwilling to confess to the authorities. Salton has the ability to form and manipulate flames. When he arrived home from work that night, he stopped by his MSN group. As unexpected, there were already many posts scolding him for his carelessness.

"If I had been there, I could have used my power to bring everything under control. I'm not that strong, but I could still

handle it," Karren Ann, a woman who can control water, wrote. Ann discovered her secret abilities one night while bathing.

Ann was also scolded for her carelessness.

"Never do that," a poster named "Schult" wrote, "You could have been hurt because Jeremy still can't control his power. Besides, you are in New York, young lady. I could have helped him with my wind power."

Schult said that one time, he saw the wind take shape. Ever since then, he has been steadfastly convinced of his ability to communicate with the air itself.

Are they crazy? Well, they all have super powers ... at least according to themselves, and they are all fans of NBC's TV series, *Heroes*.

Hidden in the crowd

Heroes debuted on September 25 last year. The plot follows characters who believed themselves just like everyone else, until one day they discovered they possessed incredible abilities like time travel, flight, telepathy and controlling-fire. The main difference between *Heroes* and *X-men* is that the characters continue their everyday lives.

The show garnered 14.3 million viewers in the US, and was rated highest among any NBC drama premiere in five years. Fan groups quickly shot up on MSN Groups and Yahoo! to discuss the story, but later, they found it more fun to imagine what they would do "if they had a super power."

Salton was one of the first to participate in this this online game. "I am an IT engineer. It is a boring life, but super powers give us a dream and make the daily grind a lot more interesting."

Today, Salton's group has nearly as many as 80 people. They are mostly ages 22 to 40 and work in many different fields. They discuss social problems, super powers and their duty to save the world.

Hu Chuan, a Chinese student super hero, believes he can travel through time. "Of course we know it's not possible, but online forums give us a way to realize our dreams. When I first started discussing super power problems on Eden Garden BBS, I realized there are a lot of people out there who are just as lonely as I am."

How to play

Hu and his Eden Garden buddies gather monthly to chat and play games in cafes. One of their games is a little similar to "Murder Case," a popular Chinese game where the player has to deduce who is the murderer by playing the role of detective.

The first step is to decide the person's side and super power.

Side A

1. Gana (fire)
2. Catty (time travel)
3. Luo (water)
4. Crystal lover (regeneration)
5. Phony (flying)
6. Sherry (metamorphosis)
7. Cast (copycat)

Side B

1. Hu Chuan (fire)
2. to-be (divination)
3. Wang (copycat)
4. Ruobing (ice)
5. Stilly (clairvoyance)

6. Dragon D (water)
 7. JD (mind control)
- Sides A and B attack each other in turn. They can choose to either attack or use their powers.
1. A1 chooses B4 to fight. Rock, paper, scissors. A1 wins.
 2. B1 chooses A2 to fight. B1 loses.
 3. A2 chooses to use her power, turning back time to start. A1 is reborn, but B1 is also revived.
 4. B2 chooses to forecast A5's death. A5 must die.
 5. A3 attacks B1. A3 wins.
 6. B3 attacks A6. B3 wins and he has A6's power.
 7. A4 attacks B5. A4 loses, but he has the power of regeneration, so he is still alive.
 8. B4 attacks A7. B4 wins.
 9. A5, A6, and A7 have no right to attack.
- This round comes to an end. Side A lost three people but Side B lost only one, B takes the advantage. In the next round, A2 still can turn the time back one step to avert crisis, so the outcome remains uncertain. One side wins when everyone on the opposing side loses.

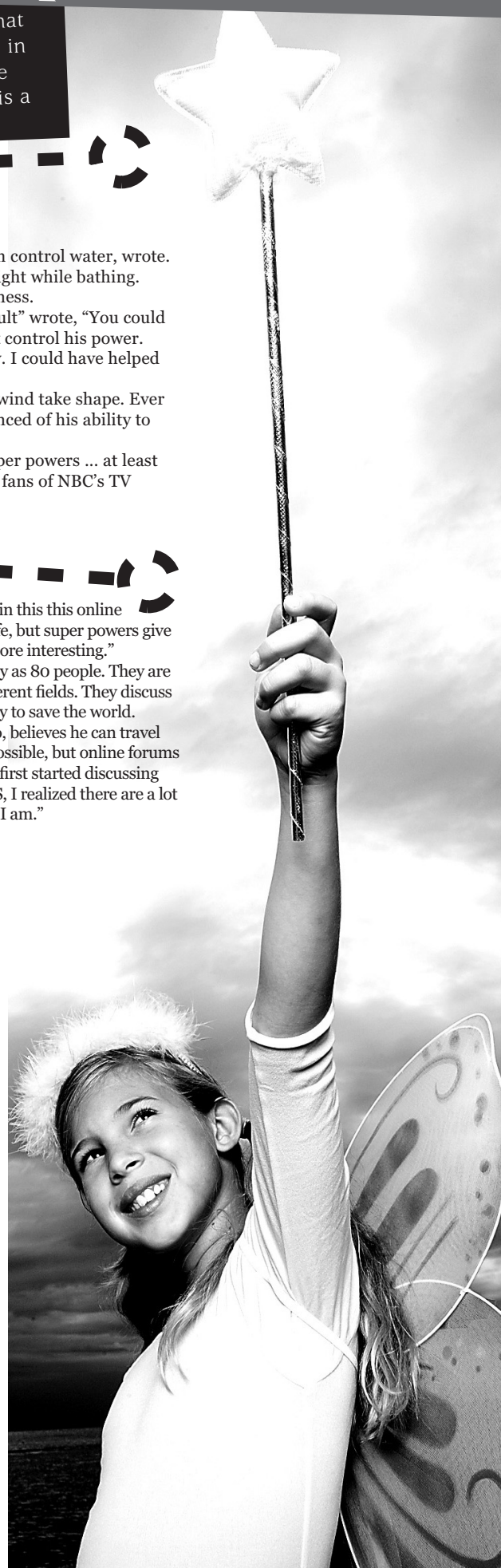
Locating local heroes

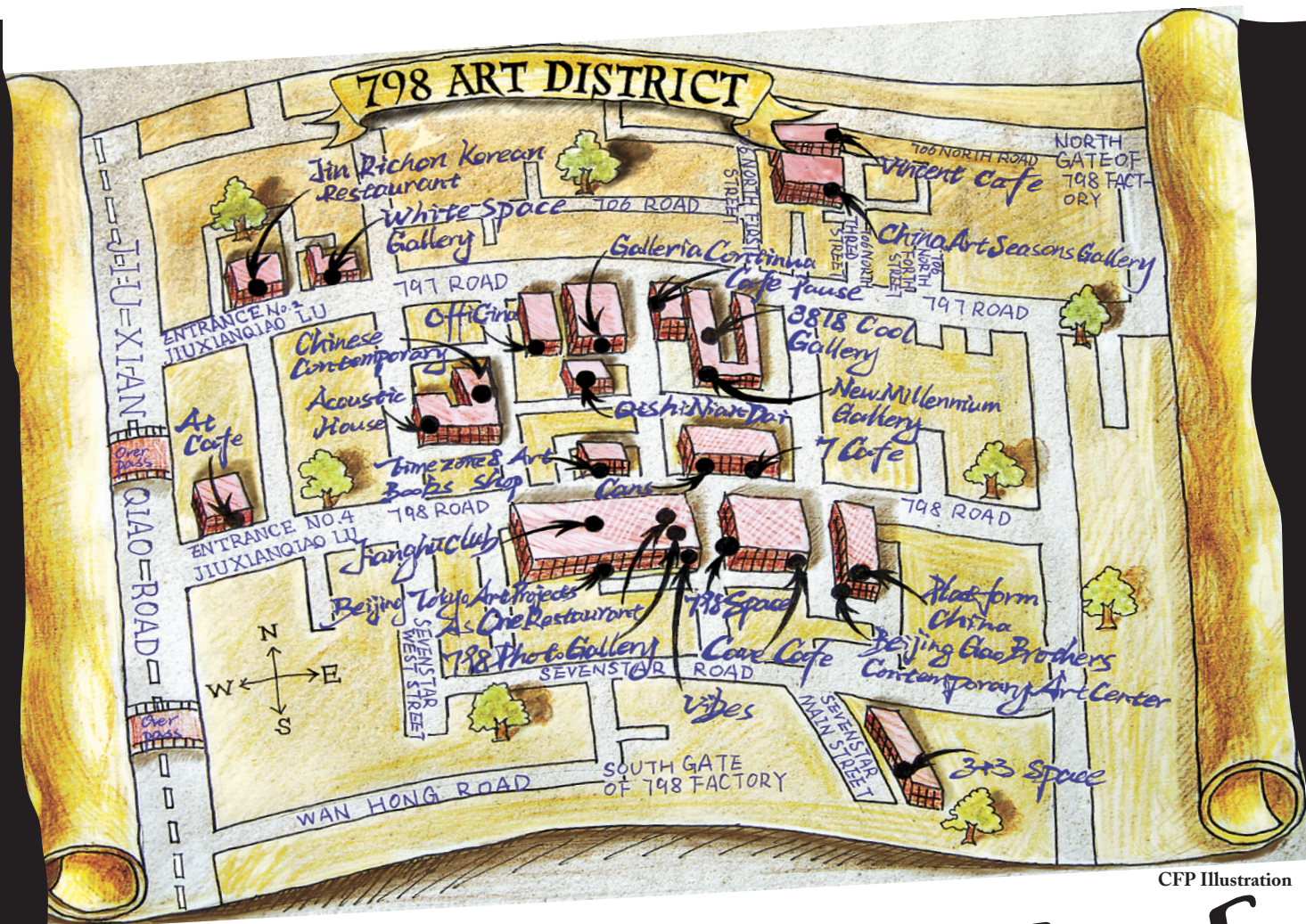
NBC's website has a special page for super power super fans to share their secrets, "It's time to save the world" (nbc.com/Heroes/).

It also provides interesting super power games – of course, not to use your super power, but to analyze, detect and reason. You can also create a *Heroes* comic book or make your own *Heroes* music video for a chance to win prizes (nbc.com/Games/).

For Chinese fans, log on to Douban to discuss the development and synopsis. The board is home to many top analysts, some of whom are using their powers to divine the ending of Season One (douban.com/subject/1837856).

The Eden Garden BBS also has a forum for fans to discuss what is going to happen and provide role-playing games (sfile.ydy.com/bbs/thread.php?fid=211).





CFP Illustration

Taste the spirit of 798

By He Jianwei

798 Art District is located in the Dashanzi area, northeast of central Beijing. It is the site of many state-owned factories including Factory 798, which originally produced electronics.

Beginning in 2002, artists and cultural organizations began to divide, rent out, and re-make the factory spaces, gradually developing them into galleries, art centers, studios, design companies, restaurants and bars.

It became a "Soho-esque" area of international character, replete with "loft living," attracting attention from all around. Bringing together contemporary art, architecture and culture with a historically interesting location and an urban lifestyle, "798" has evolved into a cultural concept of interest to experts and normal folk alike, and has influenced concepts of both urban culture and living space.

The district is already named one of the ten recognized industrial districts with cultural focus in Beijing, and was classified as an "industrial assembly area in the first batch of districts with cultural focus in Chaoyang" by the district government in July 2006.

Photo by Li Shaolin



Photo by Li Shaolin

Brothers' art project

By He Jianwei

A two-story glass room lies opposite Jianghu. The sculptures, with exaggerated expressions, attract the passersby.

It is the Gao Brothers' second space in the 798 Art District displayed in their Beijing New Art Projects section. Some exhibitions are featured in the glass room and drinks are also offered. The visitors can sit outside the first floor or on the roof of the glass house chatting and enjoying the artistic works.

Gao Zhen and Gao Qiang were born

in Shandong Province in 1956 and 1962, respectively. Gao Zhen graduated from Shandong Academy of Arts and Crafts and is currently a painter at the Jinan Painting Institute. Gao Qiang graduated from Qufu Normal University and is also a painter at the Shandong College of Light Industry. The Gao Brothers have been working together on art projects since 1985. Their exhibitions include (dual) solo shows at the Eastling Gallery, Shanghai, Beijing Normal University and appearances at the China National Art Museum, Beijing.

The brothers work with and through many different artistic mediums including painting, sculpting, performance arts and photography. Their art has been gaining popularity. It aims at universal themes such as love and emotional communication, as well as themes that target the Chinese experience. This inclination toward domestic issues is, more often than not, characterized by a strong message concerning China's past and present legacy.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-7pm
Tel: 8459 9577

Drink, eat and listen with the guitars



Photo by Li Shaolin

A two-story wooden house lies among the old factories. This wooden house called Acoustic House will open this August. It has another plate hanging to the right of the door named Lee Guitar.

It is a place where people can not only have a drink or a meal, but also enjoy

music or buy a guitar. The owner of the house is Jonathon Lee, a Taiwanese veteran singer and producer.

On the first floor, you'll find a bar, a kitchen and a smoke room. On the second floor, there's a small platform for music performances and several tables for serving meals. In the shop window to the right of the door you'll notice purses with the brand name "Lee Guitar."

As you enter the room, four guitars made by Jonathon Lee are showcased in the shop window. The waiter said that each of the guitars sells for between 10,000 and 20,000 yuan.

After opening, the house will organize three performances every month: a jazz performance on the second weekend, a

guitar performance on the third and a band performance on the fourth.

However, all the performances are only for members of Acoustic House. The members are invited by the owner and pay 100,000 to 500,000 yuan every year for memberships. The members enjoy both splendid performances and the good taste of red wine on the house.

The house serves meals prepared by Jonathon Lee's private cook and can include Chinese, western, or Japanese-style food. People have the opportunity to eat whatever Jonathon Lee eats every day. The average cost of the meal is about 50 yuan without the red wine.

Open: Daily, 9am-9pm
Tel: 6437 9079

Platform for contemporary art

By He Jianwei

A small iron gate silently opens to the street. Walking through the gate, you enter a yard where some tables surrounded by chairs lie under the big trees. Platform China Project Space opened in December 2006 in the 798 Art District.

"This new space is a window aiming at generating more exchanges between Platform China, the public and art," Pauline Douteilingne, assistant director said.

As a multi-functional art organization, the main aim of Platform China Contemporary Art Institute (Platform China) is to develop and promote contemporary art in China and to build a platform of cultural exchange and dialogue between Chinese and international artists. It features gallery spaces, artists'

residency studios, a multi-media room and a project space. Platform China not only directly supports visual art, performing or performance art, experimental music, new media and all cutting-edge art forms, but also promotes contemporary art through publishing, curating, and managing art projects.

Platform China curates and organizes at least two group exhibitions and four solo exhibitions every year. As one of the organizers of the first Borderline International Video Festival in 2006, it is committed to promoting this platform for video art as an annual event.

"The aim of the Borderline Festival, aside from bringing inventive video art to the Chinese capital, is to develop a platform for long-term exchange and



Photo provided by Platform China

collaboration of Chinese video and to promote emerging artists," she said.

At its Project Space in 798, Chen Wei's solo exhibition "Unnamed Room" can be seen till August 13.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday, 11am-6pm
Tel: 6432 0091

Other galleries



Photo provided by 798 Space

798 Space

By He Jianwei

A new center offers huge space for high level cultural, artistic and commercial activities in the 798 Art District. Designed by East German architects in early 1950's Bauhaus style, this new avant-garde and trendy complex can accommodate more than 1,000 guests with ease in its 1,000 square meter area and nine-meter high exhibition space. Visitors can not only enjoy 300 square meters of relaxing dining space, but a contemporary art book shop and film and video viewing area is available as well.

Open: 10:30am-7:30pm
Tel: 6437 6248



Photo provided by 798 Photo Gallery

798 Photo Gallery

The gallery aims to discover and collect fine photographic works and provide a platform for cultural and commercial exchanges in order to help photographers. The gallery holds various exhibitions, periodically, featuring both classical and contemporary photographic art works. It has a professional black and white darkroom with state-of-the-art photographic equipment. Currently, the gallery is exhibiting Wang Zi's photos entitled, "Wall."

Open: Daily, 10am-6pm
Tel: 6438 1784



Photo provided by 3818 Cool Gallery

3818 Cool Gallery

This gallery has built its reputation on promoting cutting-edge contemporary Chinese artists. Their exhibitions seek to showcase works that excel both in originality and technical virtuosity. It has developed a close-knit network of foreign gallery and agency partnerships. Exhibitions feature a vast array of artistic media ranging from paintings, film and photography to multi-media artworks. From August 25, it will hold a solo exhibition spotlighting the art works of Zhong Zhao.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday, 10:30am-6:30pm
Tel: 8688 2525



Cans tradition boxed in by modernity

By He Jianwei

Finding traditional artwork in 798 Art District can be quite a challenge, but Cans Bookstore sells books on traditional Chinese furniture, seal sculptures and bronze ware amidst their archives of contemporary tomes.

Last October, the two-story house was converted into a bookstore. Aside from storing books, the first floor is used to organize a mini-exhibition every half month. Currently, it is running an exhibit on prints

from the Palace Museum in Taipei.

"Most of the mini-exhibitions are focused on contemporary art, but sometimes we bring traditional art to audiences," Chang Zhuyan, the director of the bookstore, said.

After the exhibition, the works will be sold in the bookstore. "Small ones will be sold for 30,000 yuan and bigger ones for 40,000 yuan," she said, pointing at works from the last exhibit.

Sometimes, the owners organize a book fair to promote their selection of art books.

"Most books during our book fair are priced at 10 percent off," she said.

The second floor is a tea house for customers. It has room for as many as 20 tea drinkers at a time, and the price per pot ranges from 25 yuan to 50 yuan.

In 798 Art District, you can easily find cafes and contemporary art, but Cans provides a rare opportunity to experience traditional art and culture.

Open: Daily, 10:30am-7pm
Tel: 6435 2584

South Korean duck cuisine



Photo provided by Jin Ri Chon

By Li Yidan

Located near the entrance of 798 Art District, Jin Ri Chon, an upscale restaurant, offers healthy duck cuisine packed with special flavors that the owners say can help with alcohol detoxification and adult disease.

For Beijingers in love with their local duck, make no mistake, Jin Ri Chon is anything but an imitation. The restaurant has its own way of cooking the ducks using a series of different ovens. One of the dishes, Whole Duck roasted in a Yellow Mud Pot, features marinated duck meat with herbs baked in a clay-mud pot at 300 degrees centigrade for three hours. The meat with its herbs smells appetizing and tastes delicate. Besides roast duck, the restaurant also offers smoked duck, boiled and sliced duck and duck porridge.

Each duck dish is priced around 400 yuan. If you want to taste a variety of ducks but without doing serious damage to your pocketbook, order a lunch or dinner set, which includes

rice, spicy duck soup with vegetables and many duck dish samples. The sets are priced 80 yuan at lunch and 100 yuan at dinner.

The restaurant also has traditional Korean foods like soybean paste stew and rice with beef and mixed vegetables in a hot pot.

For dieters who are counting calories or those on the lookout for heart health, the menu includes caloric and salt counts for each dish. The washrooms are fully equipped, even with mouthwash. The services guarantee that guests will leave Jin Ri Chon in a good mood.

Open: 10am-10pm
Tel: 6437 9061
Cost: 50-300 yuan per person

A trip of discovery

By Li Yidan

The Chinese name of this cafe means bridal chamber, so before this reporter stepped in, she guessed it must be connected with the vibrant reds of Chinese weddings. It is amazing how one beautiful misunderstanding can lead you down a road of discovery.

Through the heavy gate of Cave Cafe lies a dusky, silent corridor from which slow music echoes. Down the corridor, everything turns bright: white walls, white sofas and peaceful melodies.

The cafe used to be a factory building, and when the owners designed it, they aimed to retain its original loft style. "There are lots of interest-

ing and valuable details here," Hong Yan, one of the owners of Cave, said.

The cafe's ice cream is a delicious treat on sweltering summer days. Their wide selection includes Gustomenta Italian ice creams like Alaska, an ice cream with lemon, ice, mint syrup and vodka. It looks like a work of art when served in a glass and has a cool, strong taste thanks to the high-proof spirits.

If you have some skills as a painter, Cave is a great place to show off. The cafe provides pencil and paper to every guest to do their own graffiti artwork. Take a seat on one of the cafe's soft sofas to draw or paint and relax as Beijing's summer winds down.



Photo provided by Cave Cafe

Open: 10:30am-11pm
Tel: 8456 5520
Cost: 50-100 yuan per person

Other places



Photo by Li Shaolin

Timezone 8

By He Jianwei

The bookstore and cafe was established in February 2002. Specializing in imported books and magazines on contemporary art, design, architecture and photography, the former Muslim canteen now boasts the largest selection of books and magazines on Chinese contemporary visual art and culture.

Tuesdays are film nights and Saturdays are reserved for 6pm book launches and artist talks, all in English and Chinese. Food culture is alive and well at the newly opened Art Book Cafe inside the compound, which serves fusion cuisine at 40-90 yuan per person.

Open: 10am-8pm
Tel: 8456 0336



Photo provided by At Cafe

At Cafe

A great place to take a break from artistic creation or rest after checking out 798's many galleries. At Cafe's front room, home to the bar-like counter and tempting cake display, has simple, modern tables and chairs and a beautiful bench crafted from a split log. A brick wall on one side bears an amusing range of slogans from the factory's heyday.

Open: 11 am-midnight
Tel: 6438 7264
Cost: 40 yuan per person



Photo by Li Shaolin

Jianghu Club

The décor of Jianghu is a mishmash of faux Chinese antiques, western stuff and a heavy shot of kitsch, a result of the questionable paintings and a wall of chintzy ceramics at the back. One of the house specialties is coffee, espresso to be exact, made from Lavazza brand beans and served in authentic Lavazza cups. Jianghu's barristas are exhibited in the "dancing latte," a three-layered drink of coffee, milk and foamed milk that magically defies all efforts to meld together.

Open: 11am-midnight
Tel: 6431 5190
Cost: 80 yuan per person

Gallery

798 Space

798 Space is a new avant-garde and trendy space that hosts high-level cultural, artistic and commercial activities. It can accommodate more than 1,000 guests with ease.

Open: 10:30am-7:30pm
Tel: 6437 6248

798 Photo Gallery

It is the first art gallery dedicated to photography in China and was established in April 2003.

Open: Daily, 10am-6pm
Tel: 6438 1784

3818 Cool Gallery

3818 Cool Gallery has built its reputation on promoting cutting-edge contemporary Chinese artists.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday, 10:30am-6:30pm
Tel: 8688 2525

China Art Seasons

China Art Seasons is the first major Singapore-owned art gallery estab-

lished in China. It aims to promote both Chinese and Southeast Asia contemporary and experimental art.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday 10:30am-6:30pm

Tel: 6431 1900

OffiCina

Established in 2002 and active between Europe and China, OffiCina is an Italian cultural exchange center and exhibit area.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday, 10:30am-7pm
Tel: 6436 1191

Beijing Tokyo Art Projects

Beijing Tokyo Art Projects was founded in 2002 by Yukihiro Tabata. It focuses on young, promising Asian artists – Chinese, Japanese, Korean and others.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday, 10:30am-6:30pm (November-March: 10:30am-5:30pm)

Tel: 8457 3245

Galleria Continua

Galleria Continua's new center in Beijing showcases western contemporary artists in an area where they

are still scarcely visible and largely unknown.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday 10:30am-6:30pm

Tel: 6436 1005

3+3 Space

3+3 Space, established by the founders of Sanban Studio, promotes art and art-related activities and contributes to the contemporary art scene.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday 10:30am-6:30pm
Tel: 6438 9932

White Space Beijing

White Space Beijing was founded by Alexander Ochs in February 2004 in the 798 Art zone. As a Branch of the Berlin Gallery, White Space Beijing aims at the Chinese and East-Asian market.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday 10:30am-6:30pm
Tel: 8456 2054

New Millennium Gallery

New Millennium Gallery has been devoted to promoting the local art market in China and international art-

exchange activities ever since its founding in 2000.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday 10:30am-6:30pm

Tel: 6432 4122

Chinese Contemporary

It features an exhibition program showing a complete spectrum of media from paintings and photos to performances, ink on paper and videos.

Open: Daily, 11am-7pm
Tel: 8456 2421

Platform China

As a multi-functional arts organization, Platform China aims to develop and promote contemporary art in China.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday, 11am-6pm
Tel: 6435 7195

Beijing Gao Brothers Contemporary Art Center

The Gao brothers work with and through many different artistic mediums including painting, sculpting, performance arts and photography.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-7pm
Tel: 8459 9577

Restaurant

Jianghu Club

One of the specialties of the house is coffee, espresso to be exact, made from Lavazza brand beans and served in authentic Lavazza cups.

Open: 11am-midnight
Tel: 6431 5190
Cost: 80 yuan per person

Acoustic House

Opened by a Taiwanese veteran singer and producer, Jonathon Lee's House serves drinks and meals and sells his guitars as well.

Open: Daily, 9am-9pm
Tel: 6437 9079

Jin Ri Chon Korean Restaurant

Jin Ri Chon, an upscale restaurant, offers many kinds of healthy and specially-flavored duck cuisine.

Open: 10am-10pm
Cost: 50-300 yuan per person
Tel: 6437 9061

Qi Shi Nian Dai

A restaurant serving mainly Sichuan food.

Open: Daily, 11am-10pm
Tel: 8459 9323
Cost: 30 yuan per person

Bookshop

Timezone 8 Art Books Shop

Timezone 8 Art Books specializes in imported contemporary art, design, photography and architectural books and magazines with one of China most comprehensive selections of books on contemporary Chinese art and culture.

Open: 10am-8pm
Tel: 8456 0336

Cans Bookstore

It is the second largest bookstore in the 798 Art District selling art books related to traditional and contemporary art.

Open: Daily, 10:30am-7pm
Tel: 6435 2584

Cafe and Bar

At Cafe

At Cafe is the first cafe in the 798 Art District founded in June 2003, serving the illy coffees.

Open: 11 am-midnight
Tel: 6438 7264
Cost: 40 yuan per person

Vincent Cafe

It is the first cafe that features French Brittany.

Open: 11am-12pm
Tel: 8456 4823
Cost: 60 yuan per person

As One Cafe

As One Cafe is a Japanese restaurant and cafe.

Open: 10am-10pm
Tel: 8456 0437
Cost: 50-60 yuan per person

7 Cafe

It provides Italian food and coffees.

Open: Daily, 9am-12pm
Tel: 6431 8608
Cost: 40-50 yuan per person

Cave Cafe

A restaurant with caves, it serves coffee, Italian food and wine.

Open: 10:30am-11pm
Tel: 8456 5520
Cost: 50-100 yuan per person

Cafe Pause

It's a German cafe.
Tel: 6431 6214

Vibes

The three-story bar provides jazz and Indian music.

Open: 1pm-12pm
Tel: 6437 8082

Photo by Li Shaolin

Sample a vineyard's vintage

A vineyard can be a perfect travel destination. The scent of grapes hangs thick in the air, and the winding vines crawling and wrapping around whatever they can find are a testament to Mother Nature's mastery of beauty.

This week, *Beijing Today* introduces six top vineyards both domestically and abroad. With grapes in season, there is no better time to make a trip to taste the latest vintage released by these wineries.



Bodega Langes Chateau

Located in Changli, Hebei Province, also known as the Oriental Bordeaux, Bodega Langes is geographically predestined to produce fine grape wines. The region has an ideal climate, a moderate sea breeze, a sharp day-night temperature contrast and sandy soil, which allows the vines to grow and produce a remarkable range of international varieties.

Bodega Langes was founded in 1999 on an investment of US\$29.7 million by Gernot Langes Swarovski, chairman of the Austrian-based crystal manufacturer and proprietor of Norton Winery. The chateau is attached to a 188-hectare vineyard where workers plant grapes, brew wine, manufacture oak barrels and design ever-better, more efficient grape processing methods.

Bodega's first vintage was in 2001 – a year earlier than expected because the grape quality was so good – and it now produces about 1.3 million bottles a year. It makes three red – a cabernet sauvignon and blends of cabernet sauvignon, merlot and cabernet franc – and a rosé. It sells only on site and through a direct sales office in Beijing.

Bodega Langes uses natural gravity brewing, a technique used only in the high-end wine chateaus of France. It also possesses its own oak barrel plant, using high-quality timber from the local Changbai Mountain, famous for producing quality wood in North China.

Only 150 miles east of Beijing, the Bodega Langes Chateau has a hotel, restaurant, wine school and China's first vinotherapy spa, which uses grape skins and the oil from pressed grapes to pamper the body.

You can also order the wines under your own brands. Even a day trip is worth your time, since the vineyard offers grape wine tastings.

Where: Bodega Langes, Changli County, Hebei Province 066600
Tel: 0335-218 6828, 218 6810
Website: bodega-langes.com

Cizhong Catholic Church

Cizhong Catholic Church is in the middle of a same-named village in Yunnan Province. It backs up to the Lancang River that runs south into Indo-China, where the river is called the Mekon River.

"Ci" means village and "zhong" means big. Among the 1,101 residents of Cizhong, most are Tibetan.

Geographically, it is fewer than 2,000 meters above sea level – quite rare in the mountains – and has a very mild climate. The mountains are full of flowers and the area boasts a very developed agricultural industry.

In 1867, a mission from France came here and built a small church. In 1905, the church was destroyed during uprisings which targeted foreign settlement in China. As early as 1909, the church was rebuilt.

During their stay in the mountains, they found it ideal to plant grapes and develop local grape wines for themselves.

Now a century later, the French missionaries are long gone, but their planting skills and fantastic French brewing methods have been adopted by the locals.

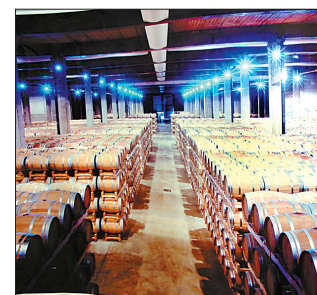
The church still stands in the middle of the village. Native villagers resumed brewing in the 1990s, not in a huge vineyard, but in each house. The wines vary according to each family's tastes. The most famous brands are Red Star and Rose Red. Red wines are sweet and white wines are strong. The price is unbelievably cheap: 10 yuan per kilogram.

Cizhong is 80 kilometers south of Deqin County and close to the famous Shangri-la area. It is not easy to cross the river. You need to be belted into a harness and pushed along a high wire to get across, but the natural scenery and relics make it worth the visit.

Getting there: fly from Beijing to Shangri-La, bus to Deqin County and then onward to Cizhong Village



The Catholic Church lies in a quiet, in Yunnan Province village.



Zhangyu Castel Chateau

Zhangyu was the first vineyard owner and grape wine producer in China.

In the 1840s, when Anglo-French Alliance troops landed in north China on their way to Beijing, soldiers found wild grapes on the hills in Shandong and Hebei provinces. They produced grape juice and wines using small tools they had brought along.

In the 1890s, a group of central government officials, led by Li Hongzhang, was determined to introduce advanced technologies and skills from the west. Zhang Bishi, one of Li's favorite students, was then stationed in Penang and Singapore as ambassador. Zhang strongly supported Li's campaign and prepared to establish a chateau soon after he returned back home.

The chateau was constructed in 1892 in Yantai, Shandong Province. It was the largest chateau and brewery in Asia.

He started with wine makers from France, Holland and Austria. Today, the company continues its tradition of recruiting masters from Europe. The purpose is very simple – to maintain a pure and traditional taste.

The wine cellar consists of four sections: the bottled wine storage section, the Champagne storage section, the barrel wine, Chateau dry red and dry white wine, and special wines, such as superfine sweet wine, premium ice wine, storage section and the barrelwash section.

Zhangyu has four categories of wine products. In the grape wine category are the dry red, dry white and sweet wine. It has its own brandy XO, sparkling wine and healthy liquors.

The chateau offers services like visitation, tasting, wine DIY, wedding, banquet, party, meal and beverages at reasonable prices.

Where: Beiyujia Terroir, Yantai Economic and Technological Development Zone, Yantai, Shandong

Tel: 0535-694 9053

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Provence, France

History tells us that grape planting and grape wine brewing emerged along the Mediterranean in ancient times. However, the real culture of grape wines originated from the Provence, France, area as early as 6th century BC.

"Today, the area is home to as many as 400 vineyards and wineries, most privately owned," Andre-Francois Millo, director of the Council of Wine Industry in Provence, said.

Famous grapes in Provence are white grapes Clairette, Rille, Ugni Blanc and Semillon, and red grapes Grenache, Cinsault, Mourvedre, Tibouren, Caringnan, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. These grapes are used to produce various brands of red wines, white wines and rose wines.

Masde Cadenete is one of the vineyards in this area. Since 1813, the Negrel family has worked its dried land. It consists of grit, stones, silt and clay, which is ideal for grapes. French law prohibits irrigating

on grape fields, which is very important for achieving green and sweet fruits.

Guy Negrel is the fifth generation of the family and is now the owner of this vineyard. He says 50 percent of the wines made in Masde Cadenete each year are rose wines, 40 percent are red wines and only 10 percent are white wines.

Guy Negrel still keeps the first wines he made in 1974 and is always very glad to tell his guests his history.

Henri Fabre is another vineyard owner. His ancestors bought the L'Aumerade Chateau in 1932. Today, the chateau sits on as many as 500 hectares and ranks in the top ten vineyards in France.

Henri Fabre leaves the vineyard to his father to operate and runs the Sa Fabre company which deals in grape wines from his own yard and those from Bordeaux and Burgundy.

L'Aumerade Chateau has a long history. In 1594, Henry IV's

premier planted mulberry trees granted by the royal family. This land became a hunting garden for the king.

L'Aumerade produces three million bottles of wine each year and sells them throughout the world. To secure the high quality, they brew the wines strictly in the traditional ways. Its 3,000 square meter cellar is kept at 16 degrees centigrade throughout the year to ensure wines remain fresh, natural and satisfactory.

Most of the vineyard owners are gastronomists. Henri Fabre is no exception. He converted the horse stall in to a kitchen and restaurant, which helps him to further expand his business. He also uses red wines as ink to draw ink sketches of the landscape, people's houses, animals and of course, the vineyards of Provence.

L'Aumerade Chateau
Where: 83390 Pierrefeu, Provence d'Azur, France
Tel: +33-4-9428 2031



Photo provided by Vina Mar

Vina Mar, Chile

Vina Mar is a tiny, privately-owned vineyard in the Casablanca Valley, Chile. The name has nothing to do with the famous Casablanca film and song, and is just a popular name in Spanish.

Vina Mar means "Vineyard of Sea"; it is close to the coastal city of "Del Mar." Chile has a great climate for grapes and grape wines, and a small vineyard like Vina Mar, established only five years ago, can produce high-quality grape wines.

Unlike most of the historic vineyards in Europe that use antique wooden tools and equipments to make wines, in the "New World" like Chile, vineyards use modern equipment like stainless steel tools to produce wines.

Most wine makers in Vina

Mar are young people. The leading maker used to be the assistant of Felipe de Solminihac, world-famous wine master, whose expertise is in mixing wines fermented in oak barrels with the unfermented wines.

Casablanca Valley is one of the best white grape production bases. The best product in the vineyard is "Reserva" white wine, which has a fresh lemon flavor and is loved by the ladies. Champenoise is produced with Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes from Casablanca Valley, using yeasts from the Champagne zone at France, which guarantees their quality and exclusive character. It fantastically mixes the oak flavor and fruit flavors, which brings, unexpectedly, a mixture of mineral

and smoky smells, perfect for males.

The vineyard owner, 60-year-old Jose Luise, prefers to receive visitors by himself. The vineyard is only the leisure sector of his business: he makes far more money in power generation and matches.

The visit begins with a panoramic ride to the winery and cellars, followed optionally by a tasting of current issue wines. These guided tours are offered from Mondays to Saturday from 10am to 2pm and from 3 to 5pm, and Sunday from noon to 5pm.

Where: Vina Mar is located in the middle of Casablanca Valley, 80 kilometers west of Santiago, capital of Chile.
Tel: +56-32-754300
Website: vinamar.cl



Sculpture of harvest time in the vineyard

Canoe Ridge Vineyard, US

In 1989, a group of farmers started planting wine grapes on Canoe Ridge, Washington, which before then was home only to badgers and sagebrush. Canoe Ridge Vineyard has grown from the original 101 acres of grape plantings to 143 acres today.

In 1994, the vineyard came into full production. The Canoe Ridge Estate vineyard overlooks the vast Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge, which encompasses 11,885 hectares of marsh, sloughs, open water and cropland. This is a popular nesting area for Great Basin Canada geese, several species of ducks and other marsh and water fowl.

The brick walls and 32-foot ceilings of the stately old building provide the winery with an ideal environment to produce and age wines for their first seven years of production. The charred beams of the old building now span a cellar of barrels filled with small lots of special wines, reserve bottles and barrel-fermented white wines.

The tasting room, bottling line

and case goods surround the old building. The owners plan to update the bottling line and expand the tasting room.

Merlot wines comprise about two thirds of Canoe Ridge's production, since it appeals to a wide range of people and pairs well with many foods. The Canoe Ridge Vineyard is also perfect for the heat-loving varietal Cabernet Sauvignon.

While Canoe Ridge focuses on red wines, they do make a limited quantity of white wines. Chardonnay was the winery's first white varietal, and it is produced in a style that allows the varietal to show through. The influence of oak barrels and malolactic fermentation is applied very judiciously. Gewuztraminer was produced in 1996.

The tasting room is open daily: Summer 11am-5pm, Winter 11am-4pm; Closed December 24-January 1 and major holidays.
Where: 1102 West Cherry Street, Walla Walla, WA, 99362, US
Tel: +1-509-527 0885
Website: canoeridgevineyard.com

(By Zhao Hongyi)



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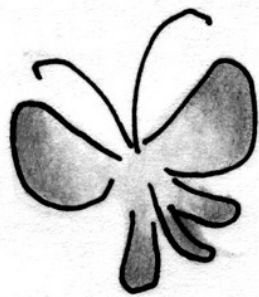
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BEIJING TODAY



Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

By Shida Zhu

1. Past

"Past" indicates time gone by or a person's past life. It never takes a plural form even if you say "their past."

2. Prelude of the dance

Prelude is anything serving as an introduction. It is wrong to follow it with "of." It should be followed by "to." For example, The German invasion of Poland was a prelude to World War II.

3. Reintroduced to wild

When an animal is reintroduced to nature, you have to say, "It is reintroduced to the wild" with the definite article.

4. People are used to expose to the culture

The verb "to be" plus "used" denotes a habitual act followed by a gerund instead of an infinite form of the verb. For instance, "He is used to getting up early." So, this sentence should read, "People are used to being exposed to the culture."

5. A good opportunity for the youngsters saying so.

It is always a good opportunity to do something. It is wrong to use a gerund here. The correct way to say it is: A good opportunity for the youngsters to say so.

6. Since we had gone to South Korea

In the adverbial phrase starting with the word, "since," when it denotes "from the time when" and indicates a designated point of time in the past, you should not use a perfect tense which indicates a sense of duration. You just simply say, "Since we arrived in South Korea." Another example is, you will never say, "I have gone somewhere," or "We have gone somewhere." You must say, "I have been to South Korea," or "We have been to South Korea."

7. Approached to the Health Bureau

"Approach" is a transitive verb. So, you should not use "to." It should be, "He approached the Health Bureau."

8. No matter the conditions

When you use the phrase "no matter," you will have to say, "no matter what the conditions are," "no matter where they are from," "no matter how hard you work at it" or "no matter which one you choose."

9. The relocations respected the will of the people.

This is typical Chinglish. The writer of this sentence is thinking in the Chinese way. Idiomatic English should read, "In relocating the people, their will was respected."

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Dead horse never dies

By Gan Tian

"You know how poor I am!"

Indeed. But I still wanted to buy an apartment this year. That's when I discovered I was "beating a dead horse".

I started this conversation again with my friend, Damon, who is going to study in Scotland. "Come on, dude. Do you think that housing prices will drop after the Olympics?"

He was fed up and replied, "You know, we have discussed this question at least ten times before. Obviously, you're beating a dead horse and I'm not talking about it again with you."

"Beating a dead horse?" I asked. Actually, this is much more interesting than housing prices.

"Yes, a dead horse," Damon replied. I still appeared confused. He turned around,

"Come on. Aren't you an English major? You don't know this expression? You are asking a stupid question which already has an answer so, that is termed a 'dead horse.' And you are beating a dead horse."

Ashamed, I went back and turned to Wikipedia. The website said, "beating a dead horse is an idiom which means a particular request is already foreclosed, mooted or resolved and any attempt to continue looking for an answer is futile." I finally understood. And, I also learned that, if you hear a British person say "flogging a dead horse," it means the same thing.

One month later I went out to dinner with Amigo, an Australian girl. She was so pretty I forgot what we had ordered that night. I remembered when the bread was brought to the table, she said to the waitress, "Please bring me some dead horse." Oh my goodness, dead horse again! She was asking for some dead horse!

"Excuse me, Amigo. Did you say dead horse?" I asked.

She retorted, "Look, I don't know whether you understand Australian English or not, but when we say dead horse, we mean marmalade." She must have thought that I was very stupid!

This dead horse certainly made me crazy and has never gone away.



Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

爱护花草
保护环境

CHERISH THE GREENS
PROTECT ENVIRONMENT

Photo by Jennifer Wallace

Cherish the greens

By Derrick Sobodash

Chinese and English are not the same language. They are not even from the same family of languages. They share a basic sentence order – subject, verb, object – but beyond that, similarities are hard to come by.

Sure, compared to Japanese and Korean, which don't even have that much in common, it's easy – but that doesn't forgive such direct translation, especially in public notices.

This week, a Beijing Today reader sent in another fine example of local Chinglish, this one asking readers to "Cherish the greens; protect environment." Such direct conversion would be unacceptable even in French to English or German to English translation, and those languages are far more related.

To be a little nitpicky, "greens" is just wrong. The Chinese huacao is more akin to "flora," since it includes flowers and grasses. Using "greens" or "greenery" is somewhat limited to herbs and shrubs.

This has bigger problems than one misplaced word: awkwardness.

While cryptic signs are sometimes fun to read and puzzle over, they are not terribly effective at instructing readers. Chinese is a very indirect language; by contrast, English is extremely direct. Herein lies the problem with this sign.

How are readers supposed to cherish the greens? Are you supposed to bring them presents each time? Stroke each blade of grass lovingly? Refrain from punishing them if they lie down and take a break on a hot day? Be there for them with water in their time of need?

It's a little unclear.

Only by living here and knowing that local people go insane whenever anyone steps on grass can one safely assume that the sign means "Do not step on the grass." However, could a visitor who is only in town one week for the Olympics discern the same? Probably not.

"Protect environment" leaves the same question: how? Is the sign meant to make readers start recycling? Should they go form a human barricade to prevent corporations from dumping pollutants in a river? Chain themselves to a tree to protest logging?

Oh, they want this writer to stop throwing his crap all over the ground when he finishes eating and drinking. Next time, just command.

In English, this sign should read "Stay off the grass! No littering!": simple, direct and clear, and with only one extra word.



SPORTS ARENA

WEEKLY!
"POOL TOURNEY"
TIME: EVERY WEDNESDAY 8 PM

CHAO YANG PARK EAST GUAN HU GARDEN TOWER #1



朝阳公园桥东路北观湖国际大厦写字楼1号首层



59283045 / 65381691 / 13901087774

Friday, August 10

Exhibition

Artists In Residence / Work-In-Progress Exhibitions



The two exhibitions feature British artists, Piers Midwinter and Alice Katarina, Polish artist, Katarzyna Chocian, Italian artist, Andrea Facco and 15 Chinese artists including Zhao Bailing, Cui Xianji and Fu Aichen.

Where: NY Arts Beijing Space, 318 Art Garden, Hegezhuang, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 10am-4pm, until August 29
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 8457 3298, 134 3951 8846

The Easy Presence and Natural Talent of Guangzhou Artists

Where: PIFO New Art Studio, C-18 Beijing International Art Camp, Suojia Cun, Cuige Zhuang, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, until August 20

Admission: Free
 Tel: 6437 1792

Movie

Millennium Mambo (Qian Xi Man Bo)

Vicky comes to Taipei as a teenager and enters into an affair with the ultra-possessive Hao-Hao who lives for DJ-ing but Vicki thinks it's not cool to play records for a living. She decides to leave him when her savings run out and then gravitates towards a small-time gangster named Jack who treated her like a best friend. But, when she finally moves into Jack's place, he has a sudden money crisis and disappears to Japan.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, inside Kent Center, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: 8pm
 Admission: 50 yuan
 Tel: 139 0113 4745



Saturday, August 11

Exhibition

Dialogue

– Group Photography Exhibition



The 33 works of photography on exhibition are the offerings of college students from the Department of the Photographic Art, College of Modern Art, Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts.

Where: Cloud & Sky Photo Image Gallery, C3006, Jiuchang Art Complex, Beihuqu Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm, until August 31
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 5202 3892

Treasures from the Louvre – Art from Ancient Greece

Where: Capital Museum, No 16 Fuxingmen Wai Dajie, Xicheng
 When: Daily 9am-5pm, until November 9
 Admission: 30 yuan
 Tel: 6337 0491

Music

Made in Ningxia

The show features The Buyi Band, The Easy Going Band and The Blues Rock Band.

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, inside the



drive-in movie theater park, No 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 10pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8196 4820

Outdoors

Tour: Contemporary Artists at Songzhuang Village

Where: Songzhuang Village is renowned as China's largest contemporary artist community set up in farmhouses. The Chinese Culture Club (CCC) makes appointments with a handful of artists who allow you into their homes, which they have transformed into studios.

When: Meet at the CCC (Kent Center, No 29, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) to board the bus at 10am and return at 4:30pm.

Cost: 150 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

Sunday, August 12

Exhibition

We – Zhang Xinjun Solo Exhibition



Where: Gallery Beijing Space, 3818 Warehouse, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, Until August 31
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 8459 9304, 133 8122 1188

Absolute Role, Absolute Beauty – Chen Ching-yao & Ho Meng-chuan Photography Exhibition

Where: Soka Art Center, B-101 Sky & Sea Business Plaza, Dongcheng
 When: Tue-Sun 10am-9pm, until August 26
 Admission: Free
 Tel: 8401 5810, 8401 2377

Qi Yun – The International Traveling Exhibition of Chinese Abstract Art

Qi Yun refers to the free and harmonious rhythm of movement.

Where: Beijing Art Now Gallery, Beijing Worker Stadium opposite Gate 12, Chaoyang
 When: Tue-Sun 12am-7pm, until September 1

Admission: Free

Tel: 6551 1632, 139 1070 3461

Sceneries of the Heart

– Du Songru Solo Exhibition



Where: C5 Arts, No 5 Sanlitun Xiwu Jie, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-7pm, until August 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6460 3950

Stage in September

Music

Rock'n'roll Banquet – 2007 Beijing Popular Music Festival

Who: The Lord Beats an Entertainer, Cui Jian, Suede, Nine Inch Nails and The Ramones.

Where: Chaoyang Park, No 1 Nongzhan Nan Lu, Chaoyang
 When: September 8-9
 Admission: 200-380 yuan

Swing and Jazz

Who: Savoy Dance Orchestra
 Where: The Star Live, No 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng
 When: 8:30pm, September 13

Admission: 100-150 yuan

Opening Concert of the Tenth Peking Special Works – International Music

Section: Beethovens' Works
 Who: Lang Lang and German National Orchestra, Berlin

Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
 When: 7:30pm, September 21

Admission: 180-980 yuan

Dance

Pina Bausch and Tanztheater Wuppertal live in Beijing

Who: Pina Bausch and Tanztheater Wuppertal
 Where: Tianqiao Theatre, No 21 Tianqiao Beiwei Lu, Chongwen

When: 7:30pm, September 20-23

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Dancing Queen

Who: Spirit of the Dance Productions (Ireland)

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, September 21-22

Admission: 180-1,000 yuan

Gala Show by the Russian Red Army Song and Dance Ensemble

Who: The Red Army Song and Dance Ensemble of Russia

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, September 28-29

Admission: 180-680 yuan

Drama

Chinese Musical "Butterflies"

This is a tragedy similar to *Tragic World*. It tells a tale of life and death intertwined with true love between a man and two women. A flowing and lively story, graceful and fluent music, poetic and psychedelic stage language and a show-stopping climax make this a brand new twist on the musical genre. Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai, a couple from classic legend, are reborn in the story of "becoming a Butterfly." The show tells a Chinese story using western music and dance forms.

Who: Siqin Gaowa, Shi Ke, Wang Lihong and Li Wen
 Where: Poly Theatre, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
 When: 7:30pm, September 11-20

Admission: 180-1,200 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)